



ECHO IRELAND

Journal of the
Irish Radio Transmitters Society

June 2010



Skerries Radio Club EI2NCR activated Skerries Windmill
for the Mills On The Air Weekend May 8/9th 2010
Story on page 6

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News Bulletins and Readers

Sunday				
Dublin	1100	7.043	SSB	Sean EI7CD, Gerry EI8CC, Roland EI4GYB, Ger EI4GXB
Wicklow	1130	3.680	SSB	(as Gaeilge) Paddy EI7GK, Danny EI6GS
Dublin	1145	145.525	FM	Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG
Dublin	1200	3.650	SSB	As 1100
Mayo	2000	145.600	FM	John EI7IQ, Padraic EI9JA, Jimmy EI2GCB
Tipperary	2030	145.450	FM	Tommy EI2IT, John EI2JB, Andy EI5JF
Dublin	2130	145.525	FM	As 1145
Monday				
Cork	2000	145.750	FM	Vincent EI7HN
Limerick	2000	145.725	FM	Brian EI9AL, Tony EI2AW
Louth	2000	145.675		Peter EI4HX, Thos EI2JD
Galway	2000	145.550		Steve EI5DD
Tuesday				
Waterford	2130	145.650	FM	Francis EI5GOB

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When is my membership due for renewal?

Your membership renewal date is shown on the wrapper in which the newsletter is posted – above the name and address. For those who receive Echo Ireland by electronic distribution, the renewal date is included in the email alert sent when a new issue is published. Members who pay by direct debit will see “(DD)” after the renewal date.

Use www.irts.ie/renew to renew your membership at any time; you can also renew at a Rally, or by sending your annual subscription directly to the Treasurer. Please renew early to keep our postage and other costs down. Membership is extended by 12 months from the normal renewal date whenever a payment is received.

Joe Ryan, Membership Records Officer
memrecords@irts.ie

Obituary

Pat Maher EI3AV

It is with deep regret that I learnt of the death of my good friend Pat Maher EI3AV.

Pat passed away peacefully on 29th May 2010. He had not been well for some time but he fought a brave battle in the loving care of his family in Cloughjordan, Co Tipperary.

I first met Pat more than 40 years ago, through our mutual interest in amateur radio. In the early 1960's Pat and I learnt our CW under the expert tuition of Eamon Cassidy EI5AJ- a member of the First Class Operators Club. Pat completed his Morse test a few weeks before me and obtained his call-sign EI3AV. My call-sign arrived a few weeks later.

Over the years Pat was involved with the Limerick Radio Club and took a very active part in Club affairs. He served on the Club committee and held the onerous job of Club Secretary for many years. Each month Pat would send a reminder to members of the next meeting/event in the Club. The plain post card would arrive by post with the details of the meeting/event beautifully hand-written by Pat. The Club's minute books bear testimony to his diligence in minute-taking and are a permanent record of club activities described by Pat in great detail.

When I first met Pat in the early 1960's he was working with an international company in the Shannon Industrial Free Zone. He had originally trained as a tool maker and this expertise could be seen in many of the projects he himself undertook in amateur radio. His home - construction projects were always completed to a very high standard of workmanship. The finished project always looked as if it had been factory-produced. He was a master craftsman when it came to any metalwork project. In the 1960's and 70's Limerick Radio Club travelled to many of the islands off the west coast of Ireland on DX-peditions.

These DX-peditions were very popular with club members. Pat was a regular participant in many of these events over the years. I can recall fond memories of visits to many of the islands with Pat. He was always willing to lend a hand at any of the more onerous tasks on these



DX-peditions.

In the 1970's Pat moved from working in industry in Shannon and returned to his roots to farm in Cloughjordan, Co Tipperary. But he was not lost to amateur radio. He continued his great interest in amateur radio and could be heard most Sunday mornings checking into the IRTS news bulletin on 80 metres. Pat made full use of the space he had for antennae on his farm. His tower and beams, together with his wire antennae could be seen from afar!

Pat never lost touch with his friends in Limerick Radio Club. He kept in touch on the radio and on the local repeater. In latter years, despite his deteriorating health, he made his annual visit to the Club's Radio, Electronics & Hobbies Fair in Limerick. There he renewed friendships with many of his old friends and acquaintances.

Throughout his life Pat was always willing to help anyone in difficulty ... no task was too big ... always carried out with a smile in the true spirit of amateur radio.

I can only describe Pat as one of God's gentlemen and I'm sure that God has rewarded him accordingly in heaven.

With Pat's passing I have lost a good friend of many years - a friend who will be sadly missed by me and by all his friends in Limerick Radio Club.

On behalf of all the members of the club and on my own behalf I would like to offer deepest sympathy to his sisters and extended family on their very sad loss.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a anam dilis

Tony Condon EI2AW

New IRTS Committee

The following were declared elected at the recent AGM in Dundalk.

President Paul Martin EI2CA
V-President Seamus McCague EI8BP

Committee:

Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX
Thos Caffrey EI2JD
Ger McNamara EI4GXB
James Holohan EI4HH
Peter Grant EI4HX
Stephen Wright EI5DD
Brendan Minish EI6IZ
Joe Ryan EI7GY
Ger Gervin EI8CC
Charlie Carolan EI8JB
Pat O'Connor EI9HX

At the first meeting of the new committee, Sean Donelan EI4GK and Sean Nolan EI7CD were co-opted to the committee.

The full list of the various post holders appears as usual on page 2.

IRTS Contests

Sunday June 20th
1400-1700z

IRTS 80m Counties Contest
CW/SSB

Sat/Sun July 3/4th
VHF/UHF Field Day
1400-1400z

New Rules

You can do any single band in the restricted section

September 4/5th
1300-1300z
IRTS SSB Field Day

August 29th
1300-1500z
2m Counties Contest

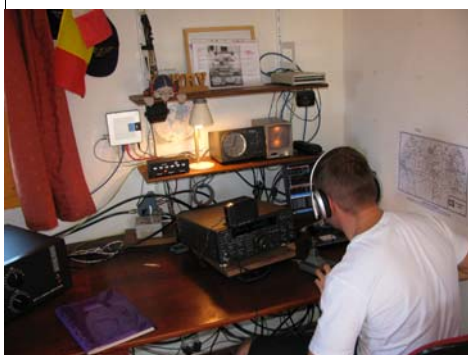
IRTS Committee Meeting

Saturday June 19th at 1100

Maldron Hotel,
Portlaoise

CQ de 6W/EI6DX

I always wanted to QRV from Africa ever since I heard an EU crowd calling 9L1CISV on 80 SSB one cold winter night in Russia in 1983. It was -20°C outside but we could almost feel the heat from a fading signal sent by a station from Sierra Leone thousands miles away. Early 2009 I was looking for a shack to rent in Africa and pictures of 6W7RV Jean Francois' radio QTH called Le Calao looked very nice on his web site so I decided to use a small break I had in November to go there and run a few pileups.



Before going to Africa, I went to Northern Russia to take part in a small RDA expedition with ex RK1OWZ members (UA1OMS, OMZ, ORT, OMX and RA1OJ).

In a sauna over a few beers I shared my plans with the OWZ crew and Mike, UA1OMX - our top SSB op - decided to join me.

It was easy to agree on the operation plan - I would work CW and low bands and Mike would take care of SSB.

A few months later we arrived in Senegal. Outside of the airport we and our bags were surrounded by a large crowd of enthusiastic people hoping to help us for any amount of money. Fortunately, our driver Omar very quickly found us and soon we were going through dark as a night Dakar looking at its badly lit streets,



women in beautiful dresses and the crescent hanging upside down.

Three hours and a few shots of Hennessy later we arrived in Somone. Jean Francois found us in excellent mood and helped us to move the amplifier.

The heat is too intense. The urge to run pileups wakes us up early. Jean Francois shows us around. Le Calao is nice indeed. Comfortable bungalows, large garden, lots of vegetation everywhere, the swimming pool, none of that interests us in the slightest.

The Ukrainian DX contest is in full swing and all we want is to tune on 20, press PTT and shout out loud that 6W/EI6DX and 6V7S are ready to work whoever wants 6W on any band.

And so we did and immediately a constant stream of QSOs started to flow into the logs. The news of the DXpedition fills the air and the pileups went mad. 1Kw worked unbelievably well.

Our signal was strong and managing pileups was as easy as it could be. I never realized so many people needed 6W on 20!

At peaks, rates went well over 300. Cluster was filled with 6W news, our QSL info, 73s and TUs. Every hour we would stop the runs to do S&P and call stations who could not believe that a 6W was coming back to their CQs in the Ukrainian DX (well, you know the feeling). The tempo was amazing and the ease of operating in SSB was reassuring. I was really looking forward to going to low bands and try out the Top Band.

Not tired at all but very excited and a bit hungry we went to the village for the first time to have some food and exchange our views on propagation and pileups.

Somone is a lovely resort on the Little Coast (quiet sunny beaches to the South of Dakar). It is a fishing village of the Lebou tribe. Locals speak mainly Wolof. A few simple words and phrases, sort of "Hows it goin'" and "Grand" in Wolof go a long way in breaking the ice. Senegal-

ese are very friendly. They are open, smiley, very relaxed people who are proud of their openness and are happy to offer the best of Senegal.

After a quick lunch of the freshest of fish we went to the beach for a splash. The local beer called Gazelle is not exactly Guinness but it was the best drink ever in the heat of the Little Coast. We felt that it was going to be a great DXpedition and holiday.

We met a few locals at the beach who offered us to meet them later so that they could show us the village and just get to know the country. We agreed to meet around 2100 and went back to the shack. The pileup craze went on. We moved from 20 to 30. I reckon there hadn't been many 6W activations on 30. Later during the trip I run the maddest 30W pileup. It was an almost 7kHz wide split - that's pretty much half of the DX portion of the band.

I had to QSY up to let other DXpeditions use the DX part.

It was a great experience. Stations were very easy to work. 1KW ensured 599 from EU, NA and JA who all called at the same time with similar signal strengths. Unbelievable! It's a pity I did not record it.

It was also great to hear many Irish calls who made it through that wall. Thos, EI2JD caught us first. He had 7 QSOs. Dave, EI9FBB had 6 QSOs including one on 160. Nicky EI9JF had 5 including one on Top band (great signal from Nicky) so did John EI7BA and Peter EI7CC followed by Declan EI6FR (4), Sean EI2CR (4) and Tony EI7JN (3). A total of 35 EIs made it into the logs, 75 QSOs altogether including 3 on Top band (EI2JD, EI9JF and EI9FBB) putting Ireland in the top 20% of worked countries.

I hope some QSOs were new ones for you guys.

Thank you for your support. It was great to hear "Well done" and "Great show" with the Irish accent.

Mike (UA1OMX) was very impressed too.

6W7RV station is very well set up for a comfortable operation. We had no problems with anything throughout the stay. Jean Francois looks very well after equipment and interfaces. Everything is in great order and ready for a trouble free operation. The only problem I had when my keyer gave up to the heat one night and the magnet detached from the paddle. Unfortunately it happened it the middle of an opening on 160. I had to fix the problem by using a piece of string from my shorts. The patch worked well until

the end of the expedition.

As agreed at 2100 that evening we went for dinner and met our new friends. They were great chaps who showed us around. Locals are a bit after your money (I would not blame them) but they are also great fun. They appreciate openness and are open in return. We never had any problems. Perhaps it was to do with the lovely village of Somone. Dakar could be quite rough in places but we felt very safe in Somone all the time. On that day the village celebrated the birth of a child



and we were invited to the party. The locals did not mind our presence at all and were happy to have us around. After initial unease, ice was broken and the magical night went on. Women were singing dancing, tam-tams playing, kids laughing and fooling around. As part of this celebration, women exchange gifts. Colorful dresses, some costing as much as 30.000 Francs (I will leave you to figure the exchange rate) were given as presents. Great show altogether. We agree to meet next day and go fishing in the pirogues with the local fishermen. It would be tomorrow. But now it was time for low bands.

Mike went to sleep and I was in the shack alone (mosquitoes don't count) but with hundreds of ops on the other side of the globe waiting for the 6W.

160 turned out to be a very noisy band – there is a power line running close to the shack. Still, NA calls were coming through and I took great pleasure in picking signals weak and strong sometimes waiting for up to 3 minutes to get a call from the noise. I could hear loads of TUs from NA and from the West Coast especially. 300 QSOs were logged on 160 the first night and I went to the bungalow for some sleep. On the way I woke up Mike who fresh as a daisy ran up to the shack to rock 40m.

Next day we went fishing. 1 km from the coast I took great pleasure in diving from the pirogue and picking shells. The weather was great all the time. Mike caught a few dorados and we went back a few hours later to have lunch on the beach.

Every day in Somone went according to a very loose schedule: eat some fruit, swim in the pool, run pileups, lunch, beach, more pileups, discover Senegal, dinner and drinks, run pileups through the night, night swimming, what else?

Did I mention pileups?

We also visited a few places on the Little Coast including Mbour with its great fishing market – a place I would recommend you visit if you come to Senegal and Goree, an island off the coast, with its famous slave prison (don't miss that either).

We did not have a specific plan for the number of QSOs or countries per band. It was great to work as many stations as possible and it was very easy to wake up early to work low bands as the crowd on the other side was always big, loud and grateful. We did not have any problems managing calling stations and found European behavior to be better than we thought it would be.

For some reason pileups in Senegal did not sound as bad as what we normally hear in Europe. South European stations behaved relatively well too. Our rates were high most of the time (except for the noisy Top Band). Most runs on low bands were very clean but it depended on conditions.

We met some great ops. N0FW, K4CVL and S38N worked us 12 times, K3ZXL had QSOs on all bands and modes that we operated on. We were impressed by the number of active EA8 stations we heard. We could have never guessed that there were so many of them. A total of 139 QSOs were made with the Canary Islands, more than with the Asiatic Russia!

6W was a great holiday as well as a DXpedition experience. I am coming back to Somone in November for CQWW.

I hope that my family would let me lock myself up in the shack for 48 hours again and make a QSO or two or may be more.

vy 73 de Stan, EI6DX

Photos and 6W 2010 updates are available at www.ei6dx.com

Raynet Ireland seek volunteers for Maracycle Sat. 26th & Sun. 27th June

The Belfast/Dublin Maracycle has been resurrected this year, which will hopefully see up to 3,000 cyclists ride a new route from Belfast to Dublin on the Saturday morning and back to Belfast on the Sunday.

Raynet Ireland have been asked once again to provide a comms network for the whole course on behalf of the various medical services on the course, but need three static radio posts fulfilled at restpoints from Ballyboughal to DCU in Dublin.

I would be very grateful if anyone interested in providing emergency communications on 2 metres could volunteer their services over the two days.

The Saturday would be later starting but longer hours, the Sunday would be an early start but shorter hours.

Operators will be fed in DCU and will be eligible for a petrol mileage allowance to and from posts.

If you can help me please contact me as soon as possible and I will send you full details of posts and times and all the other operators you will encounter etc. Look forward to hearing from you.

Joe McGuinness GI7KMJ
gi7kmj@hotmail.co.uk

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Include your call sign and email address in the request and send it to:
memrecords@irts.ie

Echo Ireland Input

All input for inclusion in Echo Ireland should be sent to:

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Dooneen, Carrigtwohill,
Co. Cork.
ei4bz@eircom.net
087-6290574

Skerries Radio Club EI2NCR - Mills On The Air Weekend

On the weekend of the 8th and 9th of May, the Skerries Radio Club EI2NCR set up portable stations for the Mills on the air weekend.

Spoilt for choice.

Skerries club had the choice of 2 windmills and a watermill to operate from.

They had a large site that was made available to them that was within a 10 minute walk from the club.

It was decided to set up the stations, in and around the 5 sail windmill, as this mill and the grounds around it could be (in the interest of safety) be blocked off from the general public due to the antennas, stay wires, and ropes that populate a portable radio site.

The stations were active from 1000 to 1700 on both days.

Stations

The main station set up was a Kenwood TS 570 DGE and a full size G5RV. The centre of the G5RV was attached to the top of a 10m mast and a pole at either end of the wire antenna.

The second station consisted of a Yaesu FT 897D, using an ATAS antenna system and the third station was made up of a new SOTA, (summits on the air) station that was on a test run. It was made up of a Yaesu FT 857D, an LDG-Z100 PLUS auto ATU, (all of which were ran off a 12v 7amp gell battery) and a chameleon antenna.

A 6m fibreglass telescopic pole with a wire running down the centre and it was connected to a balun, which also had a counter poise, was used as a spare antenna.

Each station also had a 2m radio beside them so that there would be no danger of two stations operating on the same band.

There was also a Microwave station operating on 10 GHz.

When this station was not in any QSO's, it came in very handy to heat up some of the food.



Michael EI1548, Oleg EI2JK, Pat EI2HX, Thos EI2JD, Ben EI4IN, Jeff EI6CW, Austin EI3HS.



10 GHz ATV

The club members had a great time working other mill stations, and non mill stations around the world and were very pleased with the event and also with the visitors that turned up to see the stations and to operate them.

As with any portable setup, you should leave the site the way you found it, (especially if you wish to be able to use it in the future) so always please take your rubbish home with you. As the portable operators among you know, it is getting harder to get into any site, especially one that has public access. The owners do not want any members of the public to hurt themselves and the landowner may wonder what he or she has let them selves into when the aerials and associated parts are on view, so look after the site you have use of, as it is getting harder to get a good one.

Skerries Radio Club would like to thank the management and staff of the Skerries windmills for making them most welcome over the weekend.

Awards presented at the 2010 AGM

<p>Arup Cup Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio. AREN Volunteers</p> <p>Michael Collins Memorial Trophy Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio Tony Allen EI4DIB</p> <p>Pat Conway Perpetual Memorial Trophy Exceptional service to the Society or to Amateur Radio Herbie Graham GI6JPO</p> <p>Sheila Piper Cup Service to the IRTS News Service Charlie Carolan EI8JB</p> <p>The President's Cup Presented at the discretion of the President of the Society Awarded for exceptional service to the hobby John O'Riordan EI6IJ</p>	<p>Folan Shield For home constructed equipment No entry</p> <p>Kevin Freeny Trophy For proficiency in equipment construction No entry</p>
<p>Ian Morris Memorial Trophy SWL with the highest number of DXCC entities in the previous calendar year Brendan Nutley, EI 1429</p> <p>EI7IQ National 6 Metre Shield Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 6 metre activity in the previous calendar year Dave Deane EI9FBB</p> <p>EI7IQ National 4 Metre Shield Leading EI/EJ IRTS member for 4 metre activity in the previous calendar year David Court, EI3IO</p> <p>Slievenamon Shield Leading EI station operating FM on 70cms during July No entry</p> <p>Lough Boffin Shield Leading SWL in the Winter 80m Counties Contest Shauna Baynes EI1588</p> <p>Lough Ree Shield Leading entrant in the SSB Portable section of the Winter 80m Counties Contest Mayo Radio Experimenters Network EI7MRE/P</p> <p>Lough Allen Shield Leading entrant in the SSB Fixed section of the Winter 80m Counties Contest Roland Byrne EI4GYB</p> <p>Lough Boderg Shield Leading entrant in the SSB/CW Fixed section of the Winter 80m Counties Contest Paul Martin EI2CA</p>	<p>IRTS DX Trophy Leading IRTS Member in the single operator sections of the annual RSGB IOTA contest Thos Caffrey EI2JD</p> <p>Hal Hodgens Trophy Top scoring IRTS Member in the 12 hour CW section of the RSGB IOTA contest Fr. Niall Foley EI4CF</p> <p>IRTS IOTA Trophy Leading island (EJ) DX-pedition station in the annual RSGB IOTA contest EJ0GI - South Dublin Radio Club</p> <p>Pete Daly Memorial Cup Winning station in the open section of the IRTS CW Field Day Declan Lennon EI9HQ/P</p> <p>Paddy Smyth Memorial Cup Leading station in the restricted section of the IRTS CW Field Day EI2SDR/P - South Dublin Radio Club</p> <p>Paddy Daly Microphone Winning station in the open section of the IRTS SSB Field Day Tim McKnight EI2KA</p> <p>IRTS HF Shield Leading station in the restricted section of the IRTS SSB Field Day EI3Z/P - Shannon Basin Radio Club</p> <p>Thomond Trophy Winning station in the open section of the IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day EI9E/P</p> <p>Shandon Trophy Winning station in the restricted section of the IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day EI7T/P Tipperary Amateur Radio Group</p> <p>Tom Donnellan EI9BG Cup Top IRTS Member in the CW single op section of the CQWW DX contest Paul O'Kane EI5DI</p> <p>Dermot Cowley EI2AK Memorial Cup Winning station in the 1.2GHz restricted section of the IRTS VHF/UHF Field Day Dundalk Amateur Radio Society EI7DAR/P</p>



HF Happenings

with Dave Deane EI9FBB

With so much activity happening lately on the bands, it seems like just a few days since I last put pen to paper.

I mean, when is the last time that you have heard 10m open well past midnight as I write this? LU on 15m, E4X on 17m and on 80 at the same time? It has reached the stage where one has to ponder about which band to grace. Availing of all these openings can really add to one's DXCC totals, it's surprising to discover what you may be missing on a particular band/mode.

Another way to pull out some possible new ones is to follow the contests, give out a few points or even participate a little. No matter how small your log may be, the contest organisers do appreciate it if it is submitted, even as a check log.

IOTA Contest

Saturday 24th July sees the start of the IOTA (Islands On The Air) contest and this is another great way to casually increase your totals.

Apart from working rare or unusual islands, remember that these islands also belong to some DXCC entity and can be that valuable addition to your totals. Stating the obvious (but often overlooked), as these islands are surrounded by a sea path, their signals can often be impressive and can quite easily be worked. They usually hear very well also due to a 'low noise' environment so do give them a shout when heard, you could be glad of the QSL you receive. Listed below are some of the announced IOTA activations planned for the coming month(s).

Fehmarn Island (EU-128) will be on in the RSGB IOTA Contest on July 24th and 25th by DL5XAT/P. He'll be on CW as a single op entry. QSL via DL5XAT

EJ4II, EU-103, Saltee Islands, July 23-25 will be operators EI4II and ON4EI, Bernard and Olivier. Look for them on 160-10m CW and SSB.

They will be in the RSGB IOTA Contest July 24-25. Olivier recently activated Bere Island EU-121 as EJ8GQB in the 2010 WPX contest. QSL EU-103 to EI4II. See webpage for full information. <http://users.telenet.be/on5kl/eu103.htm>.

SM0/PA3DAT will be Singoe Island,

EU-084, July 23-25 with PA3DAT and PA3DWK operating in the IOTA Contest and warming up beforehand. QSL to PA3DAT. They also plan to go to several other islands earlier in July, Faro Island, EU-029, July 15 at 15Z with the OZ/PA3DOT callsign; SM7/PA3DOT on Oland, EU-037 from 12Z on July 18; and SM3/PA3DOT on Alnon, EU-087, from 15Z on July 27.

Look for them first on 14260.

GB0FHI in Wales will be on Flat Holm Island, EU-124, May 29-30 for the IOTA contest. Operators M3TVF, M0MTT and MW0ZEN plan to be active from 10am to midnight each day, SSB on 80, 40 and 20, plus 2m SSB and FM. QSL via M3TVF.

During the RSGB IOTA Contest, July 24/25, GM7V will be a multi-op effort from Benbecula Island (EU-010). Team members will include: GM3WOJ, GM0NAI, GM0RLZ, MM0CCC and 2M0ETR. QSL via N3SL.

A German team is heading to Mando Island (EU-125), Denmark for the IOTA contest at the end of July. DH8HD, DO3HJW, DL4HG, DG3XA and DL7AT will be on as OZ/DA0T/p from July 22nd to 27th. Activity is expected on CW and SSB on all bands.

QSL via the bureau to DA0T.

GM0ELP and M0GBK plan to be on the air as MM3T from Bute Island (IOTA EU-123) for the IOTA test. QSL via MM3T and eQSL.

M0AEP, Graham, plans to be back on Montserrat (NA-103) between June 14th and July 12th. He'll be "re-activating" his VP2MDD call, with concentration on 6 meters, using a 250 watt amp into a 5 element 50 MHz Yagi and a half wave vertical. There will be more Amateur Radio activity during the 2nd half than the first half of his 4 week stay. Graham will also be on 60 meters using a Carolina Windom. QSL via M0AEP either via the bureau or direct with two US greenbacks

DL6DH, Henning, is planning to be active from Bornholm Island (EU-030), Denmark as OZ/DL6DH/p from July 10-24. This will be a portable/holiday style

operation from a hotel. He also plans to be on from SOTA Summit OZ/OZ-002 Rytterknaegten. During the RSGB IOTA Contest he will be on for a few hours from a portable station.

QSL via DL6DH or LoTW.

Four ops plan an operation from Greenland's Tasiilaq/Ammassalik, NA-151, October 20-30. DF9TM, DL1RTL, DL2SWW and DL2VFR will sign OX/home call on CW, SSB and RTTY. <http://www.iota-expedition.com/tasiilaq/tasiilaq.html>. DL2VFR says the flights and QTH are booked and they're still organizing the station setup plans, with at least one high power station running at all times on HF. An on-line log is planned. The focus of the operation will be giving everyone who needs it a new IOTA. IOTA NA-151 is on the "most wanted list," a semi-rare IOTA with 25% of IOTA participants having it confirmed. The last activity was in 2005 and has previously only been on SSB.

Twelve ops in two teams will be on SA-071, Moela Island, July 2-4, each with a different callsign. PW2K will be 9 operators with two stations. They are PY2AC, PY2DEL, PY2XM, PY2IAY, PY2OE, PY2XV, PY2AN, PY2DY and PY2WAS. The second group, PS2G, will be three operators in the 2010 WLOTA Contest July 3-4. Those ops are PY2EL, PY2VM and PY2WC. QSL both of these operations via PY2WAS. The Sao Paulo Section of the Brazilian Ham Radio Association, LABRE-SP, is organizing both PW2K and PS2G, supported by the Brazilian Navy, "the Marinha Do Brasil," and enthusiastic encouragement from LABRE-SP's President, PY2BY.

W0UCE, N3ND, W4KAZ and N4YDU will be active as N4A from Core Banks, North Carolina, USA, NA-067 between July 23-25. They hope to be QRV on 80-10m CW and SSB by 22z on July 23rd, getting ready for the RSGB IOTA contest. QSL via N4YDU.

CS2K will be a multi-op effort in the RSGB IOTA Contest on July 24 and 25 from Ilha do Pessegueiro (EU-167).

Team members include CT1ZW, CT1BOL, CT1DSC, CT1CJJ, CT1EEB, CT1EFS, CT1ILT, CT1IUA and CT1IZW.

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Before the contest there will be some activity with the operators using the home calls /p. They have a Web page at www.rep.pt/ct1ilt/cs2k.

IB0R will be on Ventotene Island, EU-045 for the RSGB Iota Contest July 24-25, with IK8HCG operating, single op category. QSL direct to his home call-sign.

Spratly Island DXpedition 2011 DX0DX

*IOTA AS-051, CQ Zone 26, ITU Zone 50
By VK3PC, Jim Linton*

A multi-national team of 30 Amateur Radio operators from nine countries is in advanced preparation to operate from Spratly Island group in the South China Sea.

Following 12 months of discussions with military and civilian authorities permission has been received to operate on Thitu Island (Pagasa in Filipino), the second largest island in the Spratly Islands with a population of about 100.

The DXpedition, organised by the South Pacific Contest Club, will run from 6 to 24 January with the final 420 km travel leg for three groups of operators, equipment and supplies is by cargo boat. All supplies including food, water and fuel to sustain the DXpedition needs to be transported to the island.

The team includes five doctors which is not only reassuring other DXpeditioners, but will provide a welcome humanitarian effort through free medical checks for those permanently on the remote island. The plan is to have four CW stations, four Phone, two RTTY/Digital Modes plus VHF/UHF.

Sponsors include ICOM (America), Ham Radio Outlet, SpiderBeam, Heil Sound and DX Engineering. Further corporate sponsorship and funding is expected, and individual donations will be acknowledged.

The DXpedition is supported by the IARU national radio society, Philippine Amateur Radio Association (PARA).

The team leader is Chris VK3FY. The rest of the team to date includes: Keith VK3FT, Roger VK3FZ, Peter VK3FGRC, Jim VK3PC, Nik VK3FNIK, Allan VK2GR, Josette VK2FXGR, Wally VK6YS, Dindo DV1DIN, Ed DU1EV, Edward 4F1OZ, Cholo 4F8BOF, Kaye DV9XO, Toshi JA8BMK, San K5YY, Oscar EA1DR, Christian EA3NT, George EA2TA, Vincent F4BKV, Bjorn SMOMDG, Charles W6KK, Arnold N6HC, Robert N6OX, John N7CQQ,

David AH6HY, Simon IZ7ATN, and Bill N6WB.

Chris VK3FY will visit the Philippines next month to check out the logistics arrangements and ensure all other requirements are finalised.

A website is now at <http://www.dx0dx.net/>

Not only is the above an IOTA activation, it is also a much sought after DXCC country. Spratly Islands are ranked at #41 on the 2009 DXCC most wanted list. The majority of countries on the Most wanted list are in fact islands.

Here are a few more of these announced DXpeditions that may appeal to all you DXCC hunters.

N5E, Palmyra & Jarvis Isl.

During the DX Forum at "Dayton," K3NA, Eric Scace, announced that N5E will be the callsign for the upcoming Jarvis Island DXpedition.

Jarvis is "KH5" on the DXCC entities list. Interestingly, Eric was a key person in making 1X1 callsigns available in the U.S., years ago during discussions of a possible Washington, D.C. area WRTC (World Radio Team Competition). Eric pitched the idea to K3ZJ at the FCC and it came to pass before long.

In making the N5E announcement, Eric talked about "DX Insight," a new web-based "gateway" to be used between DXers and DXpeditions. We will be hearing more about this in the near future.

Organized by the same group that put together the VP6DX Ducie Island expedition in 2008, "Radio Expeditions, Inc.," this operation is scheduled to be on the air November 17-December 1, weather and sea conditions dependant. This season will maximize the likelihood of good propagation on low bands and high bands to Europe where KH5 is needed by many. 160 and 80 and 12 and 10m long and short path should all be optimum. With the required permit applications in, at last report the group is still waiting for final approval from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which controls Jarvis. The plan for this major expedition is for as many as 25 operators continuously operating 12 stations, 160-6m, CW, SSB and RTTY, with no 60m operation planned. N5E will also be in the CQWW CW Contest.

Sea transportation and support will be by the well-known boat "MV Braveheart." Donations from individuals are not being sought yet, pending the government permits being in hand. Let's all keep our fingers crossed that this one materializes.

3C9B & 3C0C

The two man Spanish team planning a DXpedition to Equatorial Guinea and Annobon has announced the dates, beginning later this week. Due to "reasons beyond their control" EA5BYP, Elmo, and EA5KM, Javi, were unable to go in April and then May. On June 3rd the two will depart for Bioko Island (AF-010), Equatorial Guinea where they expect to be QRV as 3C9B the following day until June 7th. Plans are to spend as much time on the air as possible, however they will also be working on obtaining any last minute supplies for their 14 day stay on Annobon Island (AF-039) for next week's 3C0C DXpedition. The two will then fly from Malabo to San Antonio de Pale on June 7th and once everything is ready they will begin their fortnight operation from the 35th most wanted country. Plans are to be active on 1.8 through 50 MHz on CW, SSB and RTTY. Suggested frequencies are as follows:

CW - 1830 (QSX 1820-1825 Asia/Oceania), 1832 (QSX 1835-1840 Europe),

1832 (QSX 1833-1835 North and South America), 3524, 7024, 10115, 14024, 18071, 21024, 24892, 28024 and 50104. SSB - 1850, 3790, 7065/7165, 14195, 18140, 21275, 24940, 28475 and 50140.

RTTY - 3582, 7038, 10140, 14082, 18102, 21082, 24922 and 28082.

Plans are to have two complete stations and one back up rig.

For antennas they will be using a Spiderbeam (14-28 MHz), 80 meter vertical, 160 meter inverted vee, 5 element Yagi on 50 MHz and SteppIR

(3.5-28 MHz). They will also have both beverage and K9AY for receiving on the low bands. There is no Internet on Annobon so they will not be able to post their logs until after the DXpedition.

QSL via EA7FTR.

See <http://www.3c0c-annobon.com> for full information of these 2 activities.

R1M, Malyj Vysotskij Island info.

On the 26th May 2010, Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin met with Finnish Prime Minister Matti Vanhanen in Lappeenranta, Finland. One of the subjects of their meeting was a new lease of the Saimaa Canal and the surrounding area. The original 50 year lease was agreed to on September 27, 1962, which eventually



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gave Amateur Radio operators the DXCC Entity of Malyj Vysotskij Island (M.V. Island) in the late 1980's. The new agreement, which takes place in 2013, no longer includes the lease of Maly Vystosky Island (Ravansaari as the Finns call it). Thus a change to the original condition in which MV Island was added to the DXCC list. MV Island was approved by the DXAC in late 1988, for operations beginning with the first operation of 4J1FS in July of that same year.

The DXCC Deletion Criteria rule a) states "An Entity may be deleted from the List if it no longer satisfies the criteria under which it was added. However, if the Entity continues to meet one or more currently existing rules, it will remain on the List."

So once the new agreement is put into action, in 2013, MV Island would no longer meet the original criteria, which put it on the DXCC list.

Therefore MV Island would need to be deleted from the DXCC list. This could be the first deleted DXCC Entity since the DXCC 2000 rules went into affect at 2359Z on March 31, 1998.

You can read the full story in The Moscow Times at www.themoscowtimes.com/business/article/russia-inks-deal-to-extend-waterway-lease-for-finland/407002.html.

6V7W, Senegal.

The DXCiting Group Spanish team heading to Senegal in late July have had a change of callsigns. Originally they announced their call would be 6V7EA and will now be operating as 6V7W from July 25 to 31. They also have a new web page at <http://6v7w.dxciting.com/>.

6 Metre DXpeditions.

Although not entirely appropriate in this section, I feel it is only right to give these planned DXpeditions a mention. Although these are focusing on the 6 meter band, the majority of these may also surface on the HF bands from time to time. You have been informed!

From June 9th to 23rd, **5J0BV** will be the callsign used by K7BV as he heads to **San Andreas Island** for the third year in succession. This year he will be running 1KW into a 42' boom Yagi should whet one's appetite. QSL direct to K7BV for this one.

Graham, M0AEP will be holiday style from **Montserrat** beginning June 14th to July 12th. Emphasis will be concentrated to the latter 2 weeks and strong efforts then will be on 6m. He'll be running 250W to a 5 element Yagi.

QSL direct or via buro to M0AEP.

Also, **Jersey** will be QRV from June 29th to July 5th on the magic band as PA3EWP, PA1AW, PA1BDO, PA5F & GM4FDM will operate GJ/Homecalls unless a group call can be obtained in time. In the same timeframe, W9DR & W8IF will be operating from Bequia Island (NA-025) which counts as **St. Vincent** DXCC wise. The duo will be signing J8/W9DR & J8/W8IF and QSL each to their own home call. 24th June to 5th July will also see a lot of activity from **The Gambia (C5)** as W7XU, N0QJM, W0SD & W0OE put a strong emphasis and team effort on this rare one. No call-sign published yet so keep an eye out for C5 on the magic band.

The above listings are only a few of what has been announced, there will be many other 'rare and unusual' ones lingering about as folk head off to the tropics bringing simple radio equipment along. Fair enough, these won't be full blown 24/7 activations, but occasionally, may grace the bands and play a little radio.

Best way to find out, is to keep tuning around, listen carefully and you could be pleasantly surprised.

After all, the Summer is finally here, it's the season for IOTA activations, portable/holiday style operations and most of all, Es, F2, TEP? We'll have to wait and see.

Vy 73 till next issue and as usual, credit to Bernie, W3UR of the Daily DX, for without his help, this feature would not be possible.

Dave EI9FBB

EI0MAR & Vintage Radio Museum, Howth

Since the beginning of May and until the end of October, the Vintage Radio Museum in Howth is open everyday from 11am till 4pm.

A trawl through the visitors' book reveals that the majority of visitors are from outside Ireland who have heard of the museum by word of mouth or through the internet.

Sadly, many Irish people do not seem to appreciate what is on their own doorstep. The museum is run on a voluntary non-commercial basis by Pat Herbert, an enthusiastic collector of radio memorabilia for the last 50 years.

A trip to Howth including a visit to the museum is highly recommended, especially during the summer months.

Visits by small groups or clubs are particularly welcome.

Recently, the museum was rated second in the "Odd Museums" category of the Dubliner magazine.

The Howth Martello Radio Group operates an amateur radio station, EI0MAR on most weekends and other amateurs would be more than welcome to visit and operate the station by prior arrangement. The antennas are on the roof of the Martello Tower.

A Cobweb antenna, kindly donated by Jack EI7HX, and a 40-metre dipole with each half in the shape of the letter W cater for HF while a home-brew Slim Jim caters for 2 metres and 70 centimetres.

Contact details and more information are on the website www.ei0mar.org.

You can also email to info@ei0mar.org or telephone to 086-8154189.

Duhallow Voice Repeater back on air.

The Duhallow Voice Repeater EI7SMR is back on air since Tuesday the 20th of April 2010.

The repeater which is located on Musheramore Mountain, in north Cork was off air undergoing repairs and is now operating with a new antenna. EI7SMR operates on RU74, 430.925MHz. The input is on 438.525MHz (7.6MHz + split) and requires a CTCSS tone of 103.5Hz.

Enquiries to Repeater Group Secretary Hugh EI2HI QTHR

The Daily DX - is a text DX bulletin that can be sent via e-mail to your home or office Monday through Friday and includes DX news, IOTA news, QSN reports, QSL information, a DX Calendar, propagation forecast and much, much more. With a subscription to The Daily DX you will also receive DX news flashes and other interesting DX tidbits. Subscriptions are \$49.00 for one year or \$28.00 for 6 months.



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International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring System

with Ger McNamara EI4GXB

Welcome to the June edition of IARUMS news and again I am very grateful to the stations that have contacted me with reports via email, text and phone of intruders on our bands.

As is common at this time of year, intruders can be heard very strong on the 10m band and all incursions are being investigated.

Below are extracts from notes sent to me by Wolf DK2OM IARUMS Co-ordinator for Region 1, and I'm sure you will agree that as far as Monitoring Systems worldwide go, Region 1 is very effective, and this has been confirmed by ARRL in the US.

Radio Kuwait on 7150 kHz and 7190 kHz in the Exclusive 40m Band quickly stopped - reported by DJ9KR

On 13 April I stumbled over a loud station with S9+30dB-signal on 7190 kHz transmitting in Arabic language. The identification was easy, it was Radio Kuwait. The same day I found another "new" station on 7150 kHz which was also Radio Kuwait. I quickly informed the German Telecoms. Authorities Bundesnetzagentur (Federal Network Agency) BnetzA about the interference. They pin-pointed the stations and sent International Complaints to the Kuwait telecommunications authorities.

I also sent a FAX and an email to the Embassy of Kuwait in Berlin (no answer so far...) and emails to Radio Kuwait and to the Ministry of Telecoms. in Kuwait.

The most important fact is, that the IARU MONITORING SYSTEM Intruder Watch has a coordinator in Kuwait, OM Faisal Al-Ajmi, 9K2RR. He immediately rang up Radio Kuwait. By means of Internet I alerted all Intruder Watches also to listen on 7150 und 7190 kHz and to report to their telecommunications authorities.

Many did! The Internet is a very important tool for the Monitoring System to alarm all participant Intruder Watches with "Intruderalarm": Just with one mouse click the IARU MS Co-ordinator Wolf Hadel DK2OM or his Coordinator Ulrich Bi-

hlmayer DJ9KR can reach all Intruder Watches and contributors to initiate an action.

Really very helpful! Our big thanks go to Faisal 9K2RR, to German Federal Net Agency "Bundesnetzagentur" and to the other coordinators of various Intruder Watches in Region 1 who informed their telecommunication authorities for their quick action!

Friedrichshafen

If you are going to Friedrichshafen this month the following may be of interest:

Meeting of DARC Monitoring System Intruder Watch at HAM-RADIO-Fair 2010

Friedrichshafen, Germany Motto:

"40 Years of DARC Intruder Monitoring System"

Day/Time: Saturday, June 26th 10.00 - 11.30 hrs local time / Place: Room "Schweiz" in Hall A2 on the Ham Radio Site.

Program: Greetings and Lecture of Ulrich Bihlmayer (DJ9KR), Vice Coordinator of IARU Monitoring System Intruder Watch and Coordinator of DARC Bandwatch "40 Years of DARC Bandwatch".

Lecture 1: Dipl. Ing. Edmund Grim, Federal Network Agency BNetzA Konstanz,

Lecture 2: Wolf Hadel (DK2OM) IARUMS-R1 and Vice Coordinator of DARC Bandwatch: "How to identify Digital Intruders - "From Cheap Solutions to Hightech"

After the lectures of DJ9KR and DK2OM we will have our IARUMS Region 1 meeting at 1130 local time.

Room "Schweiz" and then at the stall of the DARC HF-Department.

Thats it for this month, keep the reports coming es gud DX to all,

73 de Ger EI4GXB



Shannon Basin Shields

Presented by Shannon Basin Club to IRTS for the 80m Counties Winter Contest
Picture shows Brian EI8IU handing over the shields to Peter EI4HX

RSGB Award for Eamon EI9GQ

We were delighted to see that at this years Annual General Meeting of the Radio Society of Great Britain, Eamon Skelton EI9GQ was awarded the Ostermeyer Trophy for his series of construction articles in RadCom.

We are sure that all who receive RadCom will agree that the award is well merited for the high quality informative articles which he writes.

In 2007, the IRTS awarded the Collins Cup to Eamon in recognition of his work through these articles in promoting home construction and the self training aspect of amateur radio.

Congratulations Eamon.

Revised Syllabus for the Amateur Radio Licence Examination from 2011

Following positive discussions with ComReg in March and the subsequent submission of a very detailed document by the IRTS Examinations Board, ComReg has now approved a revised syllabus for the Amateur Station Licence Examination.

The revised syllabus will be effective for examinations held from 1 January 2011 onwards.

In the five years since IRTS took over responsibility for the theory examination, the Examinations Board of the Society has compiled a significant question pool and has gained considerable experience in setting, organising and correcting the theory examination for an amateur radio licence.

It was this experience, coupled with feedback from candidates and tutors, as well as some changes in emphasis on the requirements for a licence that convinced the Society that it was time to provide a more structured and focused syllabus for

the theory examination.

The objective of the revised syllabus is not in any way to lower the standard of the examination but rather to better reflect the topics to be covered for the examination and to assist candidates and tutors to understand the extent and depth of knowledge required on the various topics.

The revised syllabus mirrors the structure and format of the examination, which is not being changed, and outlines for each subsection the topics that need to be covered. In addition, for each subsection there is a 'Notes for Candidates' section to help tutors and candidates organise their work in preparing for the examination in a more focused and meaningful way.

As at present, the revised syllabus is for an examination leading to a Harmonised Amateur Radio Examination Certificate (HAREC) and has been approved by

ComReg as complying with CEPT Recommendation T/R 61-02.

We wish to express our sincere thanks to the staff of the Spectrum Licensing Division of ComReg for their constructive approach to this matter and for the time-frame within which approval for the revised syllabus was granted.

The web page at www.irts.ie/syllabus contains a link to the revised syllabus.

The 2011 syllabus is being published now in order to give as much notice as possible to tutors and prospective examination candidates of the changes.

However, it is important to note that examinations held up to the end of 2010 will be based on the existing syllabus contained in the document "Studying for the Amateur Radio Examination" which is available for download from the IRTS web site.

Can we generate more EI activity?

At the most recent IRTS Committee meeting, members resolved to try and get more activity going, particularly in relation to the Worked All Ireland Award Scheme.

A comprehensive article on WAI has been written by Steve EI5DD but pressure on space prevents its inclusion in this issue. It will appear in the next issue.

Co-incidentally, Letters on the subject were received from Brendan EI7CS and via Brendan EI0CZ from Bill NF9A.

Brendan's letter is printed below and is self explanatory.

Bill's letter is looking for help in working all 32 counties in EI/GI, mainly on 20 metres.

In Steve's upcoming article he suggests a frequency on each band.

The WAI ones are well established on 80 and 40 and 2 metres but we need to establish the ones on other bands.

Suggestions are sought for 2m SSB, 70cms, 6 and 4 metres.

Can we agree a time for all bands as suggested by Brendan?

I suggest you communicate with Trevor EI2GLB our VHF Manager on these issues.

In the meantime why not give a call on the WAI frequencies whenever you can.

Suggested Net Frequencies

80 Metres	3.680 MHz
40 Metres	7.068 MHz,
20 Metres	14.265 MHz
15 Metres	21.317 MHz
10 Metres	28.655 MHz
2 Metres	145.350 MHz (FM)

Dear Dave,

It was nice to meet you at the AGM and I promised to write to you with an idea I had regarding getting more activity on the bands, especially VHF and UHF.

*There are many radios and antennas allegedly lying idle all over **Echo India Land** and I am sure that their owners would like to air them out a bit more often.*

I understand that there are already activity nights on the VHF/UHF bands, but I would suggest something more dynamic as an alternative, so as to encourage additional activity. This would also allow stations the opportunity to test new antennas or rigs and to re-ignite the WAI awards and more.

- *A frequency be chosen for each of the following bands, Six, Four, Two and 70cms.*
- *That a time be selected such as 2100 or 2200 Zulu or both.*
- *Activity should be encouraged to take place every evening at this time, plus or minus QRM.*
- *This timetable would appear on the IRTS Web site and appear in every issue of Echo Ireland.*

I would also suggest that an Irish activity should be selected on 80 and 40 metres as well. And in a similar way on the higher bands, even a Ten Metre net should be considered.

All the above active every evening - 365.

Maybe this is asking too much, but, as they say, use them or lose them. All you have to do is to look at the threat from BPL to our HF bands, this certainly has not gone away you know. As well., commercial users have now cast a hungry look at OUR microwave frequencies.

73

Brendan EI7CS.

Lough Erne Rally 2010

Many thanks from Lough Erne Amateur Radio Club to the 300 who took part in the club's traditional April rally at SHARE - visitors, club members, helping folk there to trade or display, and friends. This twenty ninth Erne rally was among the Club's biggest and best since the first back in April 1982.

On a hot summer day, the crack in SHARE's big arena was mighty. An array of trade and display stands suited every experimenter's interest and pocket, from Ireland, north and south, and Britain. The QRP talk upstairs was inspiring. On the lake, the boat cruise was a delight. Refreshing ice cream cones were on sale, as well as hot lunches, coffee and bar service.

Raffle winner, Daniel Cullen EI1615 from Crossakiel Amateur Radio Association got the neat Kenwood TH-F7 hand held. It was good to see keen young David alongside the host club's youngest licensed member, who made the draw, Shauna MI6SHF, age 13. Congratulations also to her and other new Foundation licensees who got 'welcome to amateur radio certificates' from Billy Pollock GI3NVW, himself fifty years and fifty days licensed on that day.

Fermanagh Repeater, GB3CP, was busy all morning, as club call GI0LEC (operator David Corbett EI6IQ) guided and welcomed the crowd travelling to the rally. It was busy again during the afternoon's homeward journey, as indeed was 40 metres on the following Sunday after IRTS news and beyond.

A lot of folk were there and were eager to say how much they enjoyed it. Many thanks also to the main traders attending who also reported this a good rally.

Peter Grant EI4HX with the IRTS stand was particularly welcome.

Two weeks later, the place-to-be was with him in Dundalk at the IRTS rally and AGM where the Club was delighted



Peter EI4HX at the IRTS Stand



Noreen Corbett MI6NCC receiving welcome to amateur Radio from Billy Pollock GI3NVW

to see Herbie Graham GI6JPO awarded the Pat Conway Cup for exceptional service to amateur radio, service that included great work on the Lough Erne rally this year and for some 25 years past.

QRP Stalls featured Brendan Minish EI6IZ, Elecraft, Dom Baines M1KTA, SDR kits, and Graham Firth G3MFJ, G-QRP Club.

Almost 40 attended the QRP talk by George Dobbs G3RJV, notably including Tony EI5EM. The video in the British Amateur Television Club archive is very clear, is still attracting a world-wide audi-



Peter EI4JR and Mike EI2DJ



Michael MI5MTC and Charlie EI8JB

ence, and can be downloaded. Go to www.batc.tv

Thanks again to all. See you next April at the Thirtieth Lough Erne Rally

73
Michael MI5MTC,
Chairman, Lough Erne ARC
Northern Ireland Amateur Radio Club of the Year.

Contest Calendar

All Times UTC

June 2010

16	Wed 1900 - 2030	RSGB 80 m Club Championship -	CW
19-20	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	All Asian DX Contest -	CW
19-20	Sat 0000 - Sun 2400	SMIRK Contest -	CW/Phone
20	Sun 1400-1700	IRTS 80m Counties Contest	CW/SSB
24	Thu 1900 - 2030	RSGB 80 m Club Championship -	SSB
26-27	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	H. M. The King of Spain Contest -	SSB
26-27	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	Ukrainian DX DIGI Contest -	RTTY(75 bd)/PSK63
26-27	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	Marconi Memorial Contest HF -	CW
26-27	Sat 1800 - Sun 2100	ARRL Field Day -	All

July 2010

1	Thu 0000 - 2359	Canada Day Contest	All
3-4	Sat 1400 - Sun 1400	VHF/UHF Field Day	CW/SSB/FM
3-4	Sat 0000 - Sun 2359	Venezuelan Ind. Day Contest	
3-4	Sat 1100 - Sun 1059	DL-DX RTTY Contest	
4	Sun 1100 - 1700	DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest	
5	Mon 1900 - 2030	RSGB 80m Club Championship	CW
10-11	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	IARU HF World Championship	CW/SSB
14	Wed 1900 - 2030	RSGB 80m Club Championship	SSB
17-18	Sat 1800 - Sun 2100	CQ Worldwide VHF Contest	
22	Thu 1900 - 2030	RSGB 80m Club Championship,	Data
24-25	Sat 1200 - Sun 1200	RSGB IOTA Contest	CW/SSB



VHF & Up Roundup with Trevor Dunne EI2GLB

ei2glb@hotmail.com

Hi and welcome to another issue of VHF Roundup. Since the last edition, the VHF bands have really come out of there hibernation and there has been lots of openings on the 6m and 4m bands.

With the good (ish) weather and long evenings now is the time to get that new antenna installed and get on the bands and have some fun.

6 Metres

As usual we start with 6m this month and the sporadic E season is in full swing as I write this at the end of May. Conditions are up on what would be considered normal for this early in the season.

There is quiet a number of active EI's on 6m this season and its great to see more and more coming on the Band as experiencing the Magic of the Magic band.

Starting with my own log, I was late starting this year due to having no antenna for the band but I have installed a new home brew long boom 6el G0KSC designed LFA (Loop Fed Array) and since the middle of May have had daily openings to all parts of Europe and further afield. So far I have worked 45 DXCC's with some notable contacts being ST2AR in Sudan, A71EM in Qatar, SU1SK in Egypt and Dave EI3IO as A92IO. Dave is very active on the 6m band, as it was only released to operators in Bahrain a few months back there is a great amount of excitement when Dave is spotted on the band,

Some other EI's that have made contact with Dave include Gerry EI9JU up in Donegal, Brendan EI6IZ, Dave EI9FBB, Jim EI8GS and John EI7BA who was the first to contact Dave and it looks like will get the record for first EI-A9 on 6m. Well done on this John there was lots of us hoping to get this as there is very few firsts left on 6m.

6m Marathon

Each year there is a 6m Marathon organised by OH3AG and the aim is to work as many DXCC's between the 1st of May and the 1st of August.

This is a great way to encourage activity on the band as finding new countries can be hard going when you get over 80 or so.

Last year the winning station ON4IQ from Belgium worked 101 countries.

The leading EI was Dave EI9FBB who finished on 76, I was 2nd on 75 and Thos EI2JD was 3rd on 74 so it was a close race and we had some great fun along the way.

This year so far Dave is running away with it on 65, Thos has 50 and I am on 45.

Its great to see a new EI on the list and that's Anthony EI2KC in Drogheda who has worked 34 so far. Anthony is just using a simple half wave dipole and looking at his list of countries worked it is amazing what can be done when the conditions are right.

Some worth a mention are HI3TEJ in the Dominican Republic, KP4EIT in Puerto Rico, and OH0/PA3BAG on Aland Island.

More info on the 6m Marathon is available on <http://6m.dy.fi/>

A closer look at Dave EI9FBB's log shows he has worked some really good DX including TL0A in Central Africa, TR8CA in Gabon, C31PP in Andorra, and JY4NE in Jordan.

Dave was the first EI to work TL so well done on the first Dave and the second one of the season to Cork.

Currently there is a huge Expedition the Palestine(E4X), The have been very active on 6m but the conditions in that direction have been poor to EI but nonetheless most of the active 6m Ops have managed to work them,

Well done to Dermot EI7IX in Mayo who was the first EI to make contact with them and gets the first EI-E4 QSO.

We are only 3 weeks into the season and already 3 new firsts and lots of the harder to work countries are appearing in logs around the country. Lets hope it keeps up for the rest of the season.

4 Metres

Moving on to 4m there has been some openings on the band

but as there is a limited amount of countries available there is usually less stations to work. Some good news that came during the week was that Italy has been granted access again to the 4m band.

Pat EI8IQ in Wexford is very active on the bands and has contacts into ES (Estonia), I (Italy), LX (Luxembourg), ON (Belgium) OZ (Denmark) and lots more.

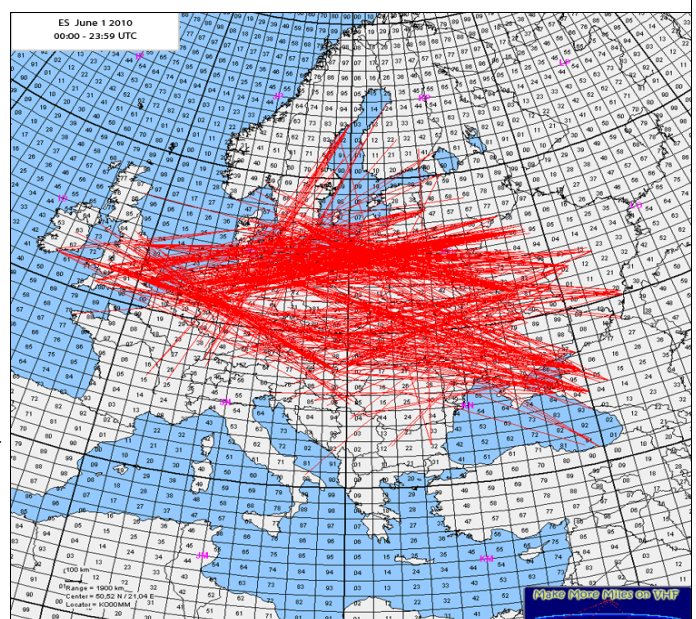
Dermot EI7IX has logged contacts with OK (Czech REP) and OZ (Denmark) and has spotted many Beacons from most of the active countries on the bands.

I have only just got back on 4m with a home brew 7el G0KSC designed LFA and just in time to make contact with OH2AXH for the First EI-OH on 4m - what better a first QSO for my new antenna.

Conditions were very difficult on the band due to OIRT which is basically FM broadcast from some of the ex USSR Countries in the same way we use 88-108 here the use from 69-85 over there. I have posted a video on YouTube showing this if anyone want to see it just search for my call (ei2glb).

Not much else to report from 4m. It would be great if anyone active on the band can keep a listen for the new transatlantic beacon on 70.005 WE9XFT from Virginia in USA, FM07FM.

With some opening to NA already on 6m



2m opening on June 1st

(Continued from page 14)

this year it is quite possible that the beacon will be heard over here.

Robbie EI2IP almost made a cross band QSO with a station in Canada who was listening on 4m and transmitting on 6m so under the right conditions we should hear it.

It would be great if the US was to get an allocation on 4m as that might open the door to some of the manufactures including it on the rigs.

2 Metres

Now moving on to 2m:- There has been a couple of openings with one big opening on the 1st of June.

Tom EI4DQ was very active during this opening working SM7GVF (Sweden) OM6NR (Slovak Republic) OK2PM (Czech Republic) and a long list of German stations.

Eamon EI9GQ was active during an earlier opening and worked stations in Sweden and Croatia.

A new callsign spotted on 2m is Patrick EI2GHB down in Cork. He has had some contacts in to Italy and Slovenia.

Great to see some activity on 2m so early in the season.

70 cms

As usual there isn't much to report on 70cms but I see Charlie EI8JB has been busy on the Satellites.

Well done to Dave EI9FBB on wining the 6m Shield and to Dave EI3IO on wining the 4m Shield.

That's all for this edition I hope to hear and see more activity from EI stations on the VHF Bands now that we are getting some conditions on the higher bands.

VHF/UHF Field Day

The IRTS VHF/UHF Field day is coming up on the 3/4th of July so now is the time to plan you activity for it.

The rules were changed last year to make it easier to take part and not have to be active on all bands.

More info is available on www.irts.ie in the contest section.

As usual feel free to email me with band reports and any questions you have relating to VHF and Higher.

Thanks and 73

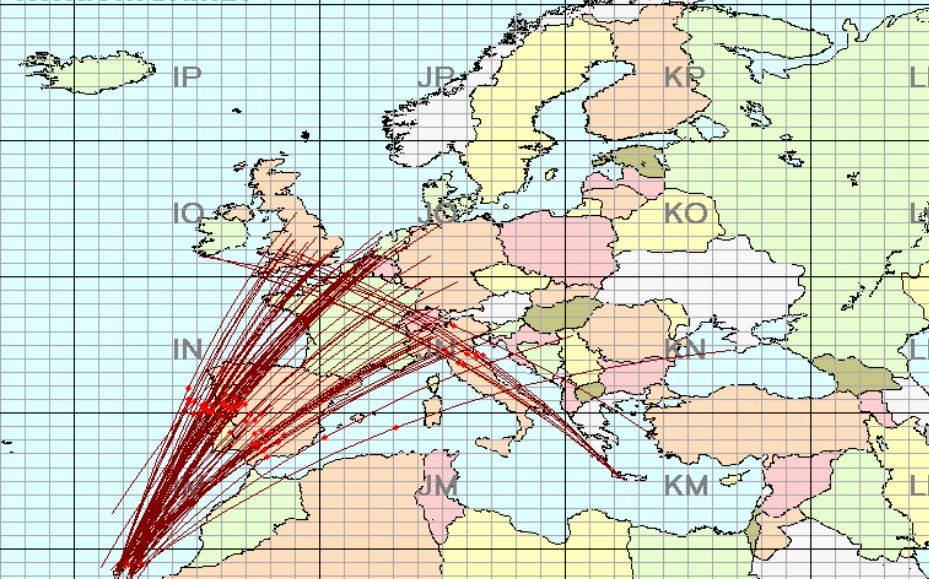
Trevor, EI2GLB

ei2glb@hotmail.com

Contest Results: 2m Counties Contest Spring 2010

		Valid QSO's	Counties	Total Score	Location
(a) High Power Portable					
EI	EI4LRC/P, Limerick Radio Club	46	16	2,528	Tipperary
(b) Low Power Portable - max 10w					
EI	EI7MRE/P	14	4	96	Mayo
	Mayo REN, EI9JA, EI9JS, EI2GCB				
	EI7GEB/P, David Morgan	8	4	88	Meath
(c) High Power Fixed					
EI	EI4CF, Niall Foley	30	17	2,159	Galway
	EI2JD, Thos Caffrey	40	13	1,924	Louth
OEI	MI0RRE, Robert Rantin	25	10	840	Armagh
	EI7IG, John Ronan	20	12	804	Waterford
	EI8JB, Charlie Carolan	21	8	472	Meath
	EI8FH, Malcolm Joyce	12	5	160	Dublin
	EI9FVB, Declan Horan	9	2	60	Cork
(d) Low Power Fixed - max 10w					
No Entry					
(E) FM Only -Single Op					
EI	EI3FFB, Eamonn Kavanagh	20	13	676	Tipperary
	EI7GY/P, Joe Ryan	13	9	540	Wicklow
OEI	GI7FHZ/P, Eddie McCrystal	13	8	424	Tyrone
	EI5GGB/P, Michael O'Callaghan	16	7	301	Limerick
(F) SWL					
EI	EI1588, Shauna Baynes	20	5	185	Mayo
Check Log					
EI2GLB, Trevor Dunne					

WWW.VHFDX.NET



2 Metres in 2009

24-06-2009 19:13:11 EI8JK (IO51DN) TA3EL (KM38OH) 3,210
03-07-2009 15:15:38 EI4DQ (IO51) SV9CVY (KM25KA) 3,250



Excerpt from the HX files

A Look at ATV with Pat Fitzpatrick EI2HX - Excerpt 010

Hello and welcome to excerpt 010 of the HX files.

AGM.

Many thanks to the people that came over to the I.R.T.S. stand to chat to me about the HX files and microwave in general, (and also to pay their subs). I was displaying some microwave gear at the MICROMax stand at the I.R.T.S. AGM and rally, which was hosted, and ran, by the Dundalk Amateur Radio Society.

Whilst I spent the rally at the I.R.T.S. stand, my fellow microwaveer's, Michael EI5GG and Mark EI9FX had a brilliant day they told me, with many people talking about the display and asking them plenty of questions about the GHz bands and taking pictures of the many aerials and fittings on display.

I am sure they gave people sound advice on the items displayed and on the microwave bands.

Amateurising?

At last the good (ish) weather is here and the clocks have gone forward, so now there is more daylight to go out and play portable radio. After doing a bit more of portable amateurising with ATV (well as we are no longer experimenters, we must now be amateurising and not experimenting), I decided to make some sort of portable bench so that when I get to a site I could have a sturdy piece of kit and I could be sitting outside and not in the car with cables all over the place.

As I mentioned in the last Echo Ireland I first made a bench out of a combination of plywood and MDF but that unit was quite heavy, even before I put the gear on it so that unit was used for something else, (to light the fire).

A couple of weeks later I was in a hardware store (Homebase) looking for something else (as is the way) and I came across a foldable aluminium platform. (€38.00). When folded it measures 160 mm high and 500 mm high in use. The platform itself measures 300 mm x 690 mm.

The platform top is made of 3 aluminium strips with a gap between them and I decided to use the gaps to fasten a length of wood on top, and with the wood held in place I would fix the ATV gear to the wood and I should have a nice piece of /portable equipment ready at a moments notice and with a cover over it I would be ready to protect the equipment in the unlikely event that some rain would fall in the summer.

Photo 1, shows the platform as it comes from the store and photo 2, shows the finished bench unit.

Storage.

I made a seat out of plywood, and it is not just a seat, the top is hinged and it is used as a parts holder for extra fittings, cables and spares.

I guess you know what a wooden box looks like so there is no photo of that, (I forgot to bring it to the photo studio).

In photo 3 you can see the 1.2 GHz transceiver and also an old analogue sat receiver and an inverter to turn my 12 volts dc to 240 volts ac. This will run the sat receiver which will be used as the main 10 GHz Rx, and a backup 1.2 GHz Rx. It is a bit mixed up at the moment but after a few portable outings it will be sorted out.

And finally.

Thanks yet again to Thos EI-2-JD for taking the pictures for me. 73's to you all,

Pat, EI2HX.



EngineersWeek

8-13 February, 2010

“Morse Code is Cool - STILL!”

Séamus McCague EI8BP

Engineers Week, held in February this year, was a nationwide programme sponsored by Engineers Ireland and intended to make people more aware of engineering and science and generate a bit of enthusiasm for it. IRTS was invited by Engineers Ireland to participate in Engineers Week 2010 after the very successful series of events held by the Society throughout the country in 2009, when the week was branded as Week of Wonder.. The format this year was essentially the same.

“Come and experience the wonderful world of electronics and communications, hosted by IRTS, the Irish Radio Transmitters Society. Discover how radio waves travel across the world and see how, a century before the invention of SMS texts, coded abbreviations were used to send messages quickly around the globe. Participants will have the opportunity to identify components, build a simple electronic circuit to take away and use it to send messages.” was the message and they did come.

This year Dundalk, Cavan, Bailieborough, Kiltimagh, Balla and Tullamore were added to last year’s venues of Carlow, Athlone, Cork and Dublin. Unfortunately for a variety of reasons Waterford and Limerick had to drop out.

After a short talk on radio, messaging and Morse, groups of participants built the Morse oscillator kits and competed to send and decode messages. It was FUN!

I circulated committee members and officers with an Engineers Week logo and a few paragraphs of information. This was transmitted on the IRTS Radio News and put up on the Dundalk ARS website.

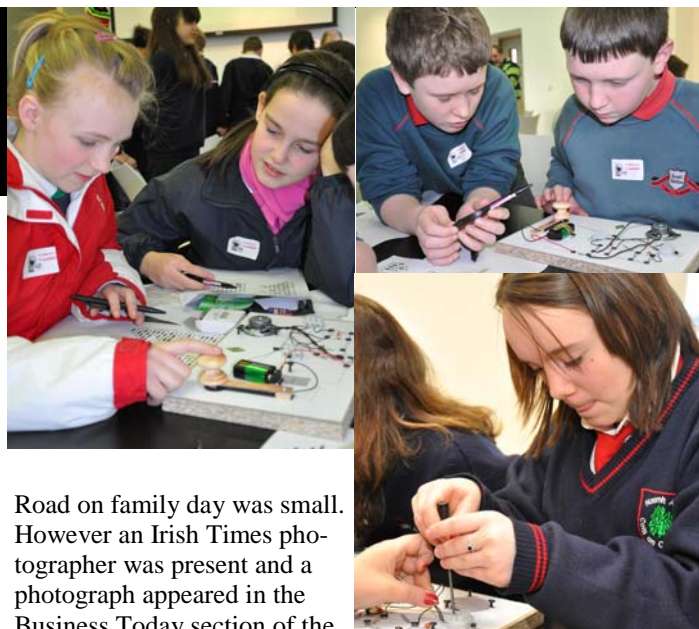
This was a useful reference point – well done EI7DAR!

I was interviewed by Aidan EI7JC for a programme on Dundalk Community FM 100.

Also interviewed was the Director General of Engineers Ireland, Mr John Power, Chartered Engineer.

The half-hour programme aired on three occasions in the following ten days. It is available on the Dundalk ARS website at <http://ei7dar.com/news.html>

The attendance at the session in Engineers Ireland HQ at Clyde



Road on family day was small. However an Irish Times photographer was present and a photograph appeared in the Business Today section of the paper the following Monday – more good press for the hobby.

Once again this was a team effort and there were too many people involved to mention each one in this brief article - those who organised, prepared and packed components for the kits, those who arranged transportation, those who travelled to the various venues to help and to give the actual presentations.

It was a team effort between new calls and old, amateurs and non-amateurs, an opportunity to instill an interest in science, engineering and radio in young people, and to raise the profile of Amateur Radio and to make it FUN.

I need also to thank my family. For a long period there were pieces of kits strewn throughout the house!

Next year’s show may need to be more virtual!

Typical of the comments I received was an Email from the Librarian in the Johnston Central Library, Cavan:

Dear Séamus

I would be very grateful if you would pass on our thanks to your colleagues Joe [EI7GY] and Paul [EI5DI] for the wonderful workshops that they provided in Cavan and Bailieborough during Engineers Week. The workshops went down a treat with both pupils and teachers, and the professionalism of the facilitators was greatly appreciated. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been approached to host these events. And of course, a very special thank you to you for your cooperation; it has been a pleasure working with you. As previously mentioned, we would be very interested in working with your society again, later in the year, Science Week in November, perhaps, if a suitable workshop could be devised. Please get in touch if this is something that might be considered a possibility. I must mention in addition that I received a lovely Thank You card from two of the Dublin participants with a message in Morse. I had to sit there saying dit-dah to decode it. As those who worked on the project know it is gratifying to see how much everyone who participated in the sessions enjoyed them.

There are some kits still to hand. If you would like a school in your area to avail of the presentation (ideally secondary schools) please contact me on (087) 259 0691 or at smccague@eircom.net. The pool of intrepid presenters will be only too happy to help you!

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Treasurer's Report for the Year to 31st December 2009 to the Annual General Meeting

Fairways Hotel, Dundalk, on 25th April 2010

I have pleasure in presenting the Accounts for the year 2009 for approval.

Although the Society ended the year with a reduced surplus (down to €1,947 from €2,653), this surplus was achieved in a year of widespread financial stress. Members' subscriptions form the largest single element in the Society's income, and it is gratifying to report that income from this source increased slightly over the figure for 2008. Exam fees, which were a buoyant source of income for the past few years, now seem to be settling at a lower level - one which we hope to maintain as candidates continue to register for the Theory and Morse tests.

A deceased member, Frank Lewis W3AGM made a bequest of \$1,000 to the IRTS, and a rig donated by the Irish Amateur radio Association for Blind and Disabled was sold.

These items make up the figure of €1,112 under the Donations heading in the accounts.

Despite the appearance of a new heading representing expenditure on the STEPS initiative with Engineers Ireland on the spending side of the accounts, we managed to limit total expenditure to the 2008 figure. This will become increasingly difficult in the coming years.

The Jubilee account was reduced to nil during the year when the balance remaining therein was donated to the Swaziland Scouts to finance repairs to some of their equipment.

The 2009 surplus has been transferred to the General Reserve Fund which now stands at a figure in excess of €47,000.

I must again acknowledge the advice and support of Joe Ryan EI7GY, Membership Officer, whose membership records are an example to all. The Society's Auditors, Brendan de hÓra and Brendan Lynch EI6GA undertook their task in a timely and efficient manner and I am grateful to them for that.

Signed:

Sean Donelan EI4GK, Hon. Treasurer

Balance Sheet as at 31st December 2009

	2008	2008	2009	2009
Fixed Assets				
Equipment		Nil		Nil
Prize Bonds		£89		€89
Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc.		£754		€754
Current Assets				
Stock for Re-sale	€1,520		€1,344	
Cash on Deposit	€42,559		€43,479	
Cash at Bank	€5,191		6,792	
		<u>€49,270</u>		<u>€51,795</u>
Total Assets		€50,113		€52,638
Liabilities		Nil		Nil
<u>Surplus of Assets over Liabilities</u>		€50,113		€52,638
		=====		=====
Represented by:				
General Reserve		€45,556		€47,503
IARU Conference Reserve		€3,535		€1,135
Jubilee Fund		€1,022		0
		<u>€50,113</u>		<u>52,638</u>
		=====		=====

Signed:

Seán Donelan EI4GK, Hon. Treasurer

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Income and Expenditure Account for the Year to 31st December 2009

Income	2008	2009
Subscriptions	24,405	24,854
Donations	1,203	1,112
Advertising	1,820	1,400
Book Sales	(484)	(309)
CD Rom Sales	259	270
Investments & Bank Interest	1,326	920
Theory & Morse Test	1,518	1,767
Less Expenses	106	517
WEIC etc.	50	0
Licence refund	200	0
Total Income	30,191	29,497

Expenditure

Newsletter		
Printing	7,978	7,915
Postage/Delivery	<u>5,448</u>	4,912
Callbook	1,758	3,279
Postage & Telephone	1,502	1,244
QSL Service Outgoing	1,150	600
QSL Service Incoming	530	892
Stationery & Admin.	940	472
Radio News	0	72
Insurance	663	669
Committee Meetings	1,130	1,610
AGM Costs	429	559
IARU Dues	931	924
Licence Fees	34	230
Conference Reserve	1,600	1,600
Bank Charges	415	461
Trophies etc.	202	403
Website Costs	192	299
Afri75 Dxpedition	405	0
Friedrichshafen Hamfest	936	94
Donations	1,600	136
STEPS	0	1,047
Miscellaneous Costs	100	132
Total Expenditure	27,538	27,550
Surplus for Year	2,653	1,947

Irish Radio Transmitters Society

Notes on, and forming part of the Accounts for the Year ended 31st December 2009

1. Income

Subscriptions and Income received during the year were credited to the Income and Expenditure Account. Subscriptions covering any period after 31st December 2008 were not treated as prepaid. No provision was made for Subscriptions in arrears.

2. General Reserve

Balance as at 1 st January 2009	€45,556
Add: Surplus for year 2009	€1,947
Balance as at 31 st December 2009	€47,503

3 IARU Conference Reserve

Balance on 1 st January 2009	€3,535
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	€1,600
Balance on 31 st December 2009	€3,535

4 Jubilee Fund

Balance on January 1st 2009	€1,022
Less; Donation to Swazi Scouts	€1,022
Balance on December 31st 2009	Nil

5. Shares – Irish Life and Permanent plc

Shares in Irish Life and Permanent plc are shown in the Balance Sheet at the issue price of €754 (330 shares @ €2.29 per share). The Market Value of these shares on 23rd March 2010 was €1,023 (€3.10 per share)

6 Cash on Deposit

Balance on January 1st 2009	€42,559
Balance on December 31st 2009	€43,479

7 Equipment

All equipment in the ownership of the Society has been fully depreciated.

Auditors Report for year ended December 31st 2009

We, the undersigned, acting as Honorary Auditors of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society, have compared the foregoing Income and Expenditure Account, Balance Sheet and Notes thereon, with the books and vouchers of the Society and certify that they are correct and in accordance with them.

Signed:

*Brendan M. de hÓra EO3GV
Brendan Lynch EI6GA
April 1st 2010*



Committee Report to the 78th Annual General Meeting of the Irish Radio Transmitters Society Fairways Hotel, Dundalk. 25th April 2010

Committee Meetings

Seven committee meetings were held during the year.

All meetings were held on Saturday mornings at 11.00am and were well attended.

Membership

We had 992 members by the end of 2009, a small increase over the year. 85 members joined (or re-joined) the society during the year. Significantly, 27 of the new members were SWLs, almost 50% up on the average SWL intake for the previous 5 years. It is encouraging to see that amateur radio continues to attract a steady flow of new recruits.

ComReg

The Commission for Communications Regulation (ComReg) was established under the Communications Regulation Act, 2002 and is the statutory authority responsible for all licensing functions (other than those relating to Television) under the Wireless Telegraphy Act, 1926 and other relevant legislation.

Regular contact is maintained with ComReg by the Society. Meetings are held as necessary to discuss matters concerning amateur radio. Telephone, e-mail and written contacts are used to resolve issues that may arise from time to time and a good working relationship exists between the Society and the Licensing and Frequency Management sections of the Commission. The following are the main issues that arose with ComReg during the year.

Meeting of 12 February 2009

Ongoing contact was maintained with ComReg on a range of issues arising from this meeting such as 500 kHz, 7 and 10 MHz bands, Beacon and Repeater Licensing, increased power and 'amnesty' for lapsed licences. Further details on these issues are given later in this report.

Lifetime Licences – Background

Letters were issued by ComReg to licensees in early May informing them that the lifetime licences would be Amateur Radio Licences. This was being done under the Wireless Telegraphy (Amateur Station Licence) Regulations 2009 made by ComReg with the consent of the Minister for Communications Energy and Natural Resources (S.I. No. 192 of 2009).

There was some misinformation circulating at this time about the involvement of the Society in this matter.

The following is a short summary of the facts:

- The Society did not seek a change to amateur licences nor was it consulted about it or made aware of it at any time.
- No meetings were held with ComReg on such a change nor were any requests for it ever made by the Society.
- All of the ComReg published documentation on this matter referred to lifetime experimenter licences. This included a consultation Document 05/59 'Review of fees applicable to Rights of Use of Radio Frequencies', the response to this in Document 05/89 of 7 December 2005 in which the decision to introduce lifetime experimenter licences was first announced. This decision was reiterated in Document 08/50 of 1 July 2008, 'Spectrum Management Strategy Statement 2008-2010'.
- At a meeting on 12 February 2009 with ComReg the Society representatives sought a copy of the draft Regulations for lifetime licences. This was refused on the basis that ComReg do not consult with client groups on draft Regulations because of the commercially sensitive nature of some of them. The Society representatives indicated that our understanding was that the revised Regulations were just to give effect to the lifetime licence and we were assured that there was nothing in them that need concern us.
- Whenever the question of amending legislation arose, (ComReg's 'Draft Strategy for Managing the Radio Spectrum 2008-2010' and 'Report of the Working group on Spectrum Policy' published by the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources) the IRTS has always sought the retention of provisions for the licensing of radio experimenters.

The Committee at its meeting on 16 May held a lengthy, wide-ranging and open discussion on this matter. As agreed, a letter was sent to ComReg on 25 May which, among other things pointed out that it would have been more satisfactory

had the Society been consulted on the intended change and expressing disappointment that the experimenter community was essentially ignored on the matter of the change to amateur licences. A copy of this letter, the reply from ComReg dated 3 June and a fuller report was published in the July 2009 issue of Echo Ireland.

The New Regulations

ComReg Document 09/45 'Amateur Station Licence Guidelines' contains the new Regulations, and other matters relating to amateur station licensing.

It is available on the ComReg website at www.comreg.ie.

A look at the frequency allocations section in Annex 2 to this document shows that the need for extra authorisation has been removed in the case of the following bands:

135.7 to 137.8 kHz
2300 to 2400 MHz
5650 to 5850 MHz
10.0 to 10.5 GHz

A new all mode segment, including Fast Scan TV, has been introduced at 5570 to 5650 MHz.

In addition the requirement for attenuation of spurs, about which we had written to ComReg quite some time ago, has been revised to comply with a less stringent requirement for Amateur stations following a decision at WRC'03.

For practical purposes this means that the requirement is now 50 dB down for all bands rather than the 70 dB down that applied to the HF bands heretofore.

It is worth noting that

- All of the main frequency bands, powers and modes in Annex 2 of the Guidelines document will be made available on the grant of a licence.
- The application form has been simplified and details of equipment or the purpose for which the licence is sought are no longer required
- Additional frequency bands and/or power levels over those specified in Annex 2 are available for amateur use for experimental purposes – see section 5.6 of the Guidelines document.

It is worth noting that the Explanatory

(Continued on page 21)

(Continued from page 20)

Note to the new Regulations states "These Regulations provide for the licensing of apparatus for wireless telegraphy forming part of an Amateur Station, used for the purposes of conducting experiments and self-training in wireless telegraphy, ----- "

In addition, it is evident from the letter of reply of 3 June referred to above, that ComReg does not intend the change in any way to represent a diminution of the status of radio amateurs in Ireland.

These are some of what could be regarded as positive aspects of the change. One big downside is that additional facilities such as 5 MHz will only be granted for a year, must be re-applied for and will cost €30 at each application. This matter is under discussion with ComReg at present. Any amendment to a licence costs €30 – see section 4.5 of the guidelines for examples of what constitutes an amendment.

Lapsed Licences

In the context of the introduction of life-time licences the Society negotiated 'an amnesty' under which lapsed licences could be renewed for the then existing fee of €10 rather than €100 after the new Regulations came into force on 1 June 2009. The deadline for applying was 17th April. Some applications were received after that date and ComReg agreed to extend the date to 15th May. A significant number of people availed of the 'amnesty' which also afforded the opportunity for some people who had been issued with new call signs to have their former call signs re-issued.

Meeting of 9 March 2010

A meeting took place with ComReg on 9th March.

The Society was represented by Paul EI2CA, Séamus EI8BP, Joe EI7GY, Seán EI4GK and Seán EI7CD.

ComReg was represented by Tara Kavanagh, Licensing Manager, Margaret O'Sullivan, Administration, John O'Hanlon, Engineering and Derek O'Reilly, Administration.

The following is a summary of the items discussed at the meeting and the outcome of the discussion:

Theory Examination: There was what we considered a positive discussion on the question of making available a more detailed syllabus type document for the information of instructors and candidates. Subsequently a detailed submission of a proposed document was made which included Notes for Candidates. Considera-

tion of this document is ongoing by ComReg.

Increased Power for Contests: At our meeting on 12 February 2009 ComReg indicated that while there would be no general increase in power levels for the present IRTS would make an application for a general increase in power for the duration of a specific number of International Contests.

The Contest manager prepared a list which was submitted to ComReg on 5 March 2009 seeking a power level of 1.5 kW on HF and 1kW on VHF. The position articulated by ComReg at the recent meeting is that IRTS will submit for approval a complete list annually of the specific contests concerned and the licensed amateurs seeking increased power.

Fees Issues: Three issues were involved here. The fact that the 5MHz permissions had to be renewed annually at a cost of €30 and the extent to which this would act as a disincentive to amateurs to avail of the facility. In this context the Society was seeking five yearly permissions.

ComReg's initial position on this was that all temporary licences are issued for six or twelve month periods only. Although the Regulations do not limit the duration of temporary licences ComReg saw the time limitation as a spectrum management issue. There was a lengthy discussion during which the Society representatives outlined the need to collect data worldwide over a lengthy period with the ultimate aim of securing a formal amateur allocation in the 5 MHz region. It was finally agreed that IRTS would submit a justification for the longer temporary licence for ComReg to review.

ComReg confirmed that a change from CEPT Class 2 to CEPT Class 1 was a licence amendment and the fee of €30 would be required. It was also confirmed that a previously held CEPT Class 2 call sign would not be appropriate for a CEPT Class 1 licence and that a new two letter call sign would be issued. It was agreed that the fee for Morse tests be increased from €12.70 to €20.

Repeater Co-ordination Group: It was confirmed that applications for repeater licences would be referred to the IRTS facilitator of the Repeater Co-ordination Group.

AREN – Net Control Stations Call

Signs: Distinctive call signs were being sought for AREN Net Control stations. ComReg were receptive to this request when the reasons for it were outlined. However call signs issued earlier in-

volved some level of consultation between AREN and Raynet Ireland and ComReg wished to have this done on this occasion also.

This has been done by AREN and ComReg has been informed that Raynet Ireland agree with the proposal.

Amendments to Guidelines Document: IRTS had identified some matters that needed correction in this document and they will be incorporated at the next revision.

500 kHz Allocation (WRC-12): Following the CEPT meeting on 26-29 January in Cork at which this issue was discussed, we sought support by ComReg for a world wide allocation of 15 kHz in the region of 500 kHz at WRC-12. While the Department of Communications Energy and Natural Resources (DCENR) are the lead agency on all WRC matters ComReg will indicate its support for a 500 kHz allocation at WRC-12 to DCENR. The Society will make a separate submission to DCENR on the issue.

500 kHz Portable Operation: Arising from previous correspondence with the Society, ComReg agreed to portable operation subject to a number of conditions mainly relating to notification of intended operation and contact details during periods of portable operation.

Short Range Devices (SRDs): Concern was expressed that the Radio Frequency Plan for Ireland made provision for SRDs particularly in the 160, 80 and 20 metre bands. ComReg take the view that these should not cause difficulty as the power levels are extremely low and are maintained in line with CEPT recommendations through an SRD Maintenance Group which ComReg participates in. The SRDs are licence exempt and operate on a non interference non protected basis.

7 and 10 MHz Bands

Following on the agreement reached at our meeting with ComReg in February 2009 the segment 7100 to 7200 kHz was upgraded to amateur primary with effect from 29 March in accordance with the decision taken at WRC-03. On the same date the agreement reached that all modes with a bandwidth of 500Hz or less could be used in the segment 10140 to 10150 kHz was also brought into effect.

500 kHz

On 4 June 2009 a Test Licence was issued to IRTS under the Wireless Telegraphy (Research and Development Licence)

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Regulations 2005 in connection with operation on 500 kHz. The licence was issued on the basis of an application made by IRTS on 8th May together with expressions of interest from a small number of licensees. These had been sought in April via the Radio News.

This initiative dates back to the ComReg meeting of February 2009 and follows on from the working out of details of an agreement in principle reached at that meeting to issue a small number of 500 kHz permissions.

Under the licence IRTS authorised eight participating stations to operate in the band 501 to 504 kHz with a power of 10 dBW ERP (10 watts ERP) using CW and PSK31. As reported above permission to operate portable on the band subject to certain conditions has been secured at our recent meeting with ComReg.

Repeater and Beacon Licences

During the year all repeaters were issued with licences which in many cases involved a change in call sign to comply with a new format introduced by ComReg. The new situation where each repeater is properly licensed with a lifetime licence would seem to be more satisfactory both to the licensees and the Regulator.

ComReg accepted the representations made by IRTS to leave the present beacon stations with their existing call signs in view of the small number of them and the fact that they are published and known internationally.

2.3 to 2.4 GHz Band

In June 2009 ComReg published a consultation paper on the commercial release of spectrum in the 2300 to 2400 MHz band. This band is an amateur secondary allocation. The Society submitted a detailed response to this paper highlighting the extent to which the band was used both here and in the UK. It was also arranged that the UK Microwave Group would also make a submission. As well as preserving the secondary status of the amateur service throughout the band the Society's response also sought a small amateur primary allocation in the segment 2300 to 2330 MHz.

In early October 2009, ComReg published a response to the consultation process. Of the twenty responses received by ComReg four were from amateurs or amateur organisations. The position adopted by ComReg in the response was that 70 MHz of spectrum between 2330 and 2400 MHz would be released for national licences with the remaining 30

MHz (2300 to 2330 MHz) being reserved for licensing of Local Area and Closed User Groups. These latter licences would not be issued in geographical areas where the existing services of RURTEL (West Cork, South Kerry, western parts of Galway and Mayo and most of Donegal) and Dáil TV (Dublin) operate.

While the amateur service would have liked to see the band below 2330 MHz reserved for existing services it is helpful that only Local Area and Closed User group licences are being proposed for this segment in the non RURTEL and Dáil TV areas. It is also helpful that the ComReg response document states

“Comreg must point out that the amateur service access to the band has not changed, and will continue to be available for amateur use on a secondary (non-interference, non-protected) basis”.

The general situation as set out here was confirmed at a ComReg briefing on 1st March which was attended by a representative of the Society.

Morse Code

ComReg continues to require experimenters to pass a 5 wpm Morse test before issuing a CEPT Class 1 licence with a two letter suffix.

The Society provides Morse testing facilities at rallies when requested.

International Amateur Radio Union

At international level, National Societies throughout the world work together for the overall good of Amateur Radio under the auspices of a representative democracy, the International Amateur Radio Union – IARU. It is through the work of the IARU that radio amateurs are able to devise agreed objectives and develop a unified strategy to seek to achieve them in the run up to World Radio Conferences of the ITU. This is how the improvements at 7 MHz, from which we are now benefiting, were achieved at WRC '03 and the hopefully an allocation will be achieved at WRC-12

A small part of each member's annual subscription goes to help fund the work of the IARU. It behoves all who have the best interests of amateur radio at heart to join their National Society and contribute to and support the work of the IARU. Being a paid up member of your national Society is the only way you can give practical support to the work of the Union and so help to secure the future of ama-

teur radio.

Like any other Union, the IARU works for the good of its members – the radio amateurs of the world

For many years now the Society had maintained a designated fund to allow the IRTS to be represented by two delegates at the three yearly Conferences of Region 1 IARU and a small part of the subscription income of the society is lodged to this fund each year. It is estimated that the cost of sending two representatives to these Conferences is about a Euro per member per year.

In October 2009 the IARU exhibited at the ITU World Telecom in Geneva. The opportunity was taken to roll out the new IARU Emergency Communications Brochure as well as to put on show some publications of IARU Societies.

The IARU was represented by Colin Thomas G3PSM, Chairman External Relations Committee IARU Region 1 and by an IRTS representative at a CEPT Project Team C (PTC), hosted by ComReg and held in Cork on 26th to 29th January. This was an important meeting as it was, among other things, considering Item 1.23 of the Agenda for WRC-12

“1.23 to consider an allocation of about 15 kHz in parts of the band 415-526.5 kHz to the amateur service on a secondary basis, taking into account the need to protect existing services.”

Some progress towards arriving at a CEPT common position was made at this meeting and useful groundwork was done with the Irish agencies concerned so as to seek to ensure support by Ireland for a CEPT common position in favour of the proposal in advance of WRC-12.

IARU Region 1 is holding an exhibition in Brussels for Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) from 26th to 30th April under the theme ‘European Amateur Radio Benefiting Society’. The exhibition will focus on two main topics, Emergency Communications and Education and Space with the aim of raising awareness and promoting interest among MEPs.

Invitations have been sent by IARU Region 1 to all MEPs and in addition the Society has contacted the twelve Irish MEPs encouraging them to take the opportunity to visit the exhibition and familiarize themselves with the benefits of amateur radio to society.

The Society will be represented at the opening of the exhibition on the evening of 26 April.

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Theory Examination

Under an agreement concluded with ComReg in May 2005 and renewed in September 2008 the Society took over responsibility for setting, organising and correcting the theory examination for a licence. This collaborative venture with ComReg has been very successful. Since the last AGM two examinations have been held.

In June, 30 candidates sat the examination at centres in Dublin (12), Carrigtwohill (10) and Letterkenny (8) – 16 (53%) were successful.

In October, 14 candidates sat the examination in Dublin and 6 (43%) were successful.

Since IRTS took over responsibility for the Theory Examination five years ago ten examinations have been held, 199 candidates have sat these examinations and 118 have gained the HAREC qualification a pass rate of 59%.

The next examination will be held on 7th July next and it is expected that there will be centres in Dublin and Limerick.

A second examination will be held in early October.

The CD Course Guide has been updated largely to reflect changes to the National Regulations Module necessitated by the new Licensing Regulations that came into force on 1st June last. The updated version also includes a very useful document 'Studying for the Amateur Radio Examination' which is also available on the downloads section of the website.

Emergency Communications

As reported at the AREN Meeting Held in Clonmel earlier this year 2009/2010 was a busy one. Along with the usual IRTS committee meetings and Voluntary Emergency Services Sub-group meetings there were nets held during severe weather events, 10 voice training nets, 6 data nets, and the GlobalSET events.

In January AREN was requested by SEMRA to assist at a Walking Marathon. This was also the first outing of the recently donated trailer. Work continues on it and it is proving to be a very valuable resource. Some new contacts have been made in Donegal with Donegal Mountain Rescue Team, Dungarvan Hillwalking Club (through SEMRA) and Dunmore East Coast Guard unit. Exercises were undertaken with these groups during the year. On the 21st of June, AREN participated with EIORTS on the air, transmitting from the Civil

Defence Headquarters at Roscrea. The station was operated by Ger EI4GXB and Keith EI4JM, with Paul EI2CA and Gerry EI8CC acting as Hosts and Seamus EI8BP as PRO.

AREN's purpose was to demonstrate the national and international communications capability using amateur radio equipment. Visiting the station were representatives from the Departments of Communications, Defence, Foreign Affairs, Civil Defence and Emergency Planning

In total AREN recorded 62 activities of approximately 471 hours duration comprised of 2388 volunteer man hours. Much credit must be given to those involved in the various events countrywide.

At an operational level, seven public service events were supported. There were no call-outs. Members went on alert during a severe weather event and gathered weather observations which were communicated to Met Eireann. AREN participated in two IARU International Simulated Emergency Tests, which are global emergency communications exercises.

AREN would like to thank all experimenters who volunteered some of their valuable time in public service events during the past year.

EMC Report

During the past 12 months a number of individual members have made contact with the EMC officer with regard to Interference to HF and VHF reception. This would appear to be the primary EMC issue facing Experimenters today.

In all cases advice was given on how to locate the source and some suggestions were made based on probable causes how the issues might be addressed.

I would appeal to the members to report back on how their EMC issues were resolved, we can all learn from the outcomes of others.

There may also be the need to involve the regulatory authorities under certain circumstances, Particularly where the noise is emanating from Non-CE marked equipment placed on sale within the EU or excessive noise levels are observed from CE marked Equipment whilst it is being operated in accordance with its intended purpose.

Devices placed on sale within the EU or imported into the EU must conform to the EMC directive (Directive 2004/108/EC) which has been transposed into Irish law. Even where a device is shown to comply with all applicable standards the EMC directive requires that the supplier or importer of a device has to take action should a device cause undue interference to radio users .

As radio amateurs we have the same entitlements to protection as any other licensed radio user or service.

It is important to note that in most cases liability for resolving the issues rests with the manufacturer or the supplier of the device, not with the owner of the device.

Car Donation

John Riordan EI6IJ of Buncrana, Co. Donegal donated his Kia Rio car adapted for disabled use to the Society. This was offered to the members for sale by Tender. In the event, no tenders were received so the Society proceeded to sell the car on the open market.

In accordance with John's wish the funds generated by the sale of the car will be devoted to promoting Amateur Radio to people with disabilities, assisting elderly or infirm Amateurs/ SWLs to remain active, and developing programmes within Amateur Radio for the housebound and lonely. The incoming Committee will address these objectives in the coming year.

The Society is grateful to John for his generous donation.

Publications

Echo Ireland was published six times in the past twelve months. Our thanks go to all who contribute articles and news, especially our regular columnists. An increasing number of members are availing of the electronic distribution of the newsletter as opposed to ordinary mail. These members have online access to the complete library of Echo Ireland issues from 2001 onwards.

PRO

Friedrichshafen

Once again the Society had a stand at the HamRadio show in Friedrichshafen in June 2009 (<http://www.hamradio-friedrichshafen.com/ham-en/index.php>). Thanks are due to all EIs and GIs who contributed some of their time at the show in order to man the stand and to Fáilte Ireland who provided literature.

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The stand had a series of posters on the theme of "Decoding the Code – from Samuel Morse to SMS" showcasing the Society's participation in the Engineers Ireland Week of Wonder.

A series of seven posters tracing developments at ITU World Radio Communications Conferences (WRC) and their impact on spectrum for the Amateur Service on the HF bands were provided by John EI7BV, based on a talk given by him at South Dublin Radio Club.

Week of Wonder 2010

Following W of W 2009 the Society was approached by the Children's Hope charity (www.childrens-hope.ie) and two workshops were held in the Dublin area in October while in November the Society was invited to have a stand at the Mayo Science & Technology Festival in Castlebar. Mayo Radio Experimenters Network (<http://www.ei7mre.org/>) manned the stand which demonstrated Morse code, fibre-optic transmission and radio.

The Society participated in W of W 2010 in February (<http://www.engineersweek.ie/>). There were presentations in Tullamore, Cavan, Bailieborough, Dundalk, Mayo (Balla & Kiltimagh), Carlow, Athlone, Cork and Dublin.

Unfortunately plans for Limerick fell through at the last minute.

The PRO circulated committee members and officers with an Engineers Week logo and a few paragraphs of information. This was transmitted on the Radio News and put up on the Dundalk ARS website.

The PRO was interviewed by Aidan EI7JC for a programme on Dundalk Community FM 100. Also interviewed was the Director General of Engineers Ireland, Mr John Power, Chartered Engineer. The half-hour programme aired on three occasions in the following ten days. It is available at the time of writing this at (<http://ei7dar.com/news.html>) – click on Dundalk 100FM Engineers Week 2010 Interview

The attendance at the session in EI HQ at Clyde Road on family day was small. However an Irish Times photographer was present and a photograph appeared in the Business Today section of the paper. Two sample quotes:

Dear Séamus

I would be very grateful if you would pass on our thanks to your colleagues Joe [7GY] and Paul [5DI] for the wonderful workshops that they provided in Cavan and Bailieborough during Engineer's Week. The workshops went down a treat

with both pupils and teachers, and the professionalism of the facilitators was greatly appreciated. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have been approached to host these events. And of course, a very special thank you to you for your cooperation; it has been a pleasure working with you. As previously mentioned, we would be very interested in working with your society again, later in the year (Science Week in November, perhaps, if a suitable workshop could be devised. Please get in touch if this is something that might be considered a possibility.

*Looking forward to hearing from you,
Best wishes,*

Emma

[Emma Clancy is Librarian, Johnston Central Library. Cavan]

and

Hi Seamus,

"The Discover the Code workshop which IRTS ran in Carlow during Engineers Week was incredible. The response to it by students and teachers alike was extremely positive. It has turned so many of them onto radio!"

Thanks to you and all the IRTS gang for your help and assistance. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Regards

Dave

[David Denieffe is Head of School of Engineering, Carlow Institute of Technology]

It is impossible to thank everyone individually. So many were involved throughout the country, preparing components, packing kits, transporting them and giving presentations. A truly team effort by both members and non-members alike. Sincerest thanks to all concerned.

ARDF – Amateur Radio Direction Finding

It is proposed that IRTS should develop ARDF under IARU rules during the coming years. Such involvement would expose radio to a new group of people, allow members the opportunity to compete nationally internationally, and offer the possibility of hosting an international event in EI. Approval for equipment and training events which will be available to kickstart the project has been given.

ARDF to IARU Rules is a combination of two separate activities/skills, viz., radio and orienteering. Consequently, participants can come from either an Amateur radio background or from an orienteering

background or neither. Also it can be participated in by all ages and formal competitions have different classes for participants from under 19 years of age to over 60. There are separate women's classes. The current IARU format is of timed competitions in the 3.5 and 144MHz bands. The full rules are at www.ardf-r1.org/ardf_rules and the RSGB ARDF website is at <http://www.rsgb.org/radiosport/ardf/>.

IRTS Shop

The Society has an arrangement with the RSGB to provide an on-line book shop for IRTS members. All items are priced in Euros, with a 10% discount available for members.

There is a link from our website or you may go directly to www.irtsshop.com IRTS will continue to have a presence at all rallies in the future but sales will be confined to IRTS specific items such as Log-Books, Pin Badges, ties and maps etc. and to provide a contact point for membership applications and renewals. Our thanks to Peter EI4HX, Pat EI2HX and Thos EI2JD who provided an IRTS presence at all rallies during the past year.

QSL Service

Outgoing Bureau

The outgoing QSL buro is handled very efficiently by Tony Baldwin EI8JK. In 2009 Tony despatched 83kgs of cards to various buros around the world. By his calculation, this weight represents approximately 29,300 individual cards and is an increase on the 2008 figure.

It is quite interesting to look back to past numbers of cards handled.

2004	35,700
2005	43,400
2006	31,150
2007	19,600
2008	26,250
2009	29,300

Although the cost of international postage has risen significantly in recent years the Society is determined to maintain this important service to its members.

Incoming Bureau

On the incoming side we also have an excellent network to ensure regular distribution of members' cards.

Mike EI2CL regularly collects many parcels of cards from abroad, together with other mail addressed to PO Box 462. Following an initial sort the cards are passed to Pat EI2HX who distributes the

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cards to the sub-managers.

Our thanks to Mike, Pat and all the sub-managers, John EI7FAB, Thos EI2JD, Jim EI3DP, Terry EI4GLB, Rory EI4DJB, Roland EI4GYB, Brian EI8IU and Dave EI9FBB.

Radio News

The HF Radio News service is running well at present.

It is worth noting that 2010 marks the 41st year of operation. The 1200hrs Sunday news is rotating between Ger EI4GXB in Clonlara, Co. Clare, Roland EI4GYB in Carlow and Sean EI7CD in Dublin.

The 40m news which was so ably served by Colm EI3H, who has retired from service is currently being provided by Sean EI7CD.

The news is also broadcast by clubs on VHF from various locations around the country mainly on Monday and Tuesday evenings.

Charlie Carolan EI8JB is editor of the news and provides very interesting scripts each week which are able delivered by all of our newsreaders.

Thanks to all involved who give so freely of their time.

Awards

The society is called on each year to validate a small number of applications by members for awards granted by other IARU Societies.

Interest in the Society's Worked All EI Counties Award (WEIC) seems to have fallen off. This is perhaps partly due to poor propagation on 40 metres. We had expected more awards to be issued as it became easier due to the now twice yearly 80 metre Counties Contest and the fact that it was decided two years ago that QSL cards would no longer be required. The award is now issued on the basis of a log extract certified by an officer of a radio club or by two licensed radio amateurs. This fact and the award generally need to get more publicity to try to stimulate interest.

The Society's trophies which are awarded for contests as well as for services to the Society or to Amateur Radio will be presented in the course of the AGM.

Contests

The Society directly organizes seven contests each year - CW, SSB and VHF Field Days, Spring and Autumn 2m Counties Contests and only recently the two 80m Counties Contests.

While the 2 metre and 80 metre contests

are well supported, our Field Days could do with more participation.

The rules of the VHF/UHF Field Day Restricted Section were changed to now allow clubs enter on any one of the VHF/UHF bands. Before now you could only enter 2m but now if you have an interest in 6m or 4m or 2m or 70cms or 1.2 GHz you can go out and activate any one of these bands.

Two stations entered the Restricted Section of the CW Field Day, EI2SDR/p and EI3Z/p.

Five stations entered the SSB Field Day, EI7T/p and EI2KA/p in the Open Section and EI3Z/p, EI4LRC/p and EI7MRE/p in the Restricted Section.

In recent years, a central location in Ballinasloe has been used for the HF field days where restricted (100 watt) stations can co-exist happily in relatively close proximity to one another. This has been reasonably successful and the Saturday night barbeque put on by the Shannon Basin Club is a big feature of the event.

We urge clubs and groups to consider participation this year.

Stations may still operate from other locations and it does not take much effort to get a field day station on the air.

Advice is available from the Contest Manager.

The Society awards trophies for the leading EI stations in some of the international Contests.

The Islands on the Air contest on the last weekend in July is the best supported by EI/EJ stations with several groups going on DXpeditions to the offshore islands.

The Society also entered the IARU contest held over the 2nd weekend of July using the call *EI0HQ*.

We were active with different stations all across Ireland on 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 both CW and SSB. This does take a bit of planning and dedication to have 12 manned stations on air over the full 24 hours.

If you have an interest in helping to activate one of the stations or to propose your own station please contact the Contest manager.

International Amateur Radio Union Monitoring Service

The IRTS continue to be well represented among member societies of Region 1 Monitoring System during the past 12 months.

Ger McNamara EI4GXB IARUMS Co-ordinator for Ireland has had meetings with fellow co-ordinators throughout Region1. These meetings here held while Ger attended rallies in Friedrichshafen and the UK, and have been very fruitful in forging relationships with other member societies.

The monthly IARUMS article in Echo Ireland has steadily received feedback from members who now send Ger reports via email and this has mainly regarded the various Broadcast stations re-appearing on the new allocation of the 40m band between 7.100 – 7.200. All reports compiled by Ger are then forwarded to the Region 1 Co-ordinator and in some cases, directly to ComReg.

IRTS members have also contacted Ger regarding QRM problems on VHF and HF during the year and we are glad to report that communications between the agencies involved and the IRTS, have led to any problems being resolved in a speedy and professional manner. These relationships are important when trying to resolve problems that members have, and it is important that we protect our bands and report any incursions in a professional and informative way.

Web Site

The web site at www.irts.ie is an important link between the society and its current membership, potential members and the outside world in general. Just over 50% of visitors to the site are from Ireland and 25% are from the UK. Topical information from a variety of sources is included and updated regularly. We would like to thank Gerry Kavanagh EI8DRB for his efforts in maintaining the site.

Members Input

Our society is run totally on a voluntary basis and depends on the goodwill of members to keep all our services going on a day to day basis.

The Committee expresses its thanks to all members for their efforts, especially to our PO Box Manager, QSL Managers, radio news readers and all who provide input to both radio and printed news services.

We look forward to their continued support over the coming year.

Any member who wants to get involved at any level should not hesitate to contact any committee member.

Irish Radio Transmitters Society 78th Annual General Meeting Dundalk

Dundalk Amateur Radio Society hosted the 78th IRTS AGM in the Fairways Hotel in Dundalk over the weekend of April 24/25th.

The Annual Dinner had close to 100 guests, including representatives from the Minister for Communications, the Communications Regulator & Dundalk UDC. Also in attendance were RSGB President Mr Dave Wilson M00BW and his XYL.

The Rally and Annual General Meeting was also well attended and the draw for free membership for a year among those who use direct debit to pay their membership subscriptions was held at the end of the meeting, and the winners were announced at the meeting.

The five members whose names were drawn have been informed in writing of their lucky win.

The AGM was preceded by a Special General Meeting at which an amended Constitution and Rules for the society was approved by members.

The new constitution and rules can be downloaded at www.irts.ie/rules.

The Annual General Meeting was very well attended and the rally was a great success.

The 80m radio news was broadcast from the AREN Mobile Command trailer and one candidate passed the Morse test.

Congratulations to the Dundalk Committee, members and volunteers who worked tirelessly to organise and make the IRTS 78th AGM weekend such a success.

Pictures.

1st Column from top:

Dave EI9FBB and Trish
Tim EI2KA and Pat
Jim EI4BX and Sarah
Hugh EI2HI and Elaine
Pat EI9HX and Patricia
Ger EI4GXB and Maresa

2nd Column from top

Doug EI2CN and Ann
Clifford EI5FQB and Charlene
John EI7IG and Deirdre
Séamus EI8BP and Vera
Anthony EI2KA and Ann
Dave EI8BEB and Marian



Galway VHF Group AREN Operation for the CROI Cycle Sunday 23rd May

Members of the Galway VHF Group provided Emergency Communications during the annual CROI Cycle on Sunday the 23rd of May. The group assembled at 7:45 am to install mobile equipment into the various vehicles used to control the event. Tom, EI2GP, was Medical Officer for the day and doubled as spotter in case of cases of emergency throughout the lengthy convoy of cyclists.

Gerry, EI8DRB, Provided Net Control and liaison with the HQ in the Maam Valley. Steve, EI5DD, and Arthur, EI7GMB, were located in the course organisers vehicles covering the safety of the event.

John EI7FAB, and Joe EI3IX were located with the Repair Crews and dealt with any equipment failures or punctures. Enda, EI3IS, was based in the HQ and dealt with messages regarding the location of cyclists and deployment of refreshments.

John, EI1EM, and Eamon Lynch were located with the Civil Defence Emergency Crews.

Quite a number of the cyclists were relative amateurs and participated to the half way point in Maam whilst other more seasoned individuals cycled the complete course around the Corrib which was some 67 miles. The weather was quite hot with only a light breeze and there was quite a call for supplies of water and refreshments to be deployed from one location to another. Much of this was handled via the communications system. The repair crews were kept busy throughout the event. Many calls were put out to assist cyclists stopped by the side of the road with punctures. Any station spotting a cyclist in trouble would put the call down the line and one of three crews would be dispatched in record time. It was possible to deal with many of the mechanical failures such as gear and chain problems although some had to be brought to base in the trailer as a last resort.

Communications were good and reliable for the duration of the event and operators were quick to pick up and relay messages where necessary. The liaison with the Civil Defence worked well and on two occasions there were calls for medical assistance which were dealt with efficiently.

Civil Defence had two fully trained EMT's in the Ambulance who demonstrated their expertise with a fast response time and assessment of the situation.

The HF link provided excellent cover throughout the course and enabled the Medical Officer to be contacted even when arriving at the Regional Hospital in Galway.

This year is the sixteenth year that the CROI Cycle has been run and the Galway VHF Group has provided the Emergency Communications for each of the events run. Each year there have been new challenges which have been easily incorporated into the operation and sometimes co-ordinated even whilst the event is in progress.

One comment that summed it all up was that there was comfort in knowing exactly what was happening when the question was asked.

Something that perhaps could not occur when using mobile phones on a one to one basis.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group Special Event Station EI2GEO

For the third year running, the South Eastern Amateur Radio Group ran the special event station EI2GEO from Tankardstown, Co. Waterford on the Copper Coast Geopark for the Geopark communications weekend over the 22nd and 23rd of May.

The annual Geopark communications weekend is co-ordinated from GB6GEO at Kents Cavern in Torquay, in the heart of the English Riviera Global Geopark and numerous stations operated from various Geoparks throughout the world.

The Copper Coast European Geopark is located on the South East coast of Ireland.

It extends from Fenor in the east to Stradbally in the west and as far north as Dunhill.

The Copper Coast gets its name from the 19th Century copper mines that were once predominant in the area.

The Copper Coast consists of 25 kilometres of spectacular coastline. Oceans, volcanoes, deserts and ice sheets all combined to create the rocks, which provide the physical foundation of the natural and cultural landscapes of the Copper Coast.

The Copper Coast is an outdoor geology museum with geological heritage that reflects a variety of environments under which the area has evolved over the last 460 million years. Sedimentary and volcanic rocks illustrate the closure of the Iapetus Ocean, the resulting volcanic activity, evidence of the collision of two continents leading to the creation of Ireland and finally the effects of glaciation from the Ice Age. Cross-sections of these are exposed on the many spectacular cliffs along the Co. Waterford coastline.

In addition to the excellent weather conditions, the band conditions were favourable throughout the weekend with many QSOs worked on various HF bands.

Those on site were; Francis EI5GOB, Declan EI5GRB, Jim EI8IG, John EI7IG, John EI8JA and Mark EI7IS.

Saturday, saw a number of visitors to the station, most notable were a group of scouts some of whom had particular interest in radio.

Martin EI8FFB also called along on the Saturday night for some late night 40 and 20 metre operation.

South Eastern Amateur Radio Group would like to thank all those who helped out, provided equipment, operated or visited over the weekend.

Special thanks to the Coppercoast management who as always are very supportive and helpful to us in setting up the special event station and special thanks also to Jim EI8IG for providing the camper van and for providing a full Irish breakfast on the Sunday morning.



North Dublin Radio Club

2010 Annual General Meeting

The 2010 Annual General Meeting of the North Dublin Radio Club was held on 27th March.

Chairman Tony EI6BQB and Secretary Tony EI5EM were re-elected and Nick EI7GOB was elected as treasurer.

Liam EI8HY the outgoing treasurer, indicated that he did not want to go forward again for election. In recognition of Liam's many years of loyal service in that post, the club presented him with the Willie Barron EI6BUB Memorial Trophy.

This trophy was designed and presented to the club in 1998 by Ray EI7AHB to be awarded annually in recognition of service to the club or to amateur radio in general.

Willie Barron, now a silent key, had served in the past as chairman of NDR and also as President of the IRTS.

On Easter Monday, members of NDR had the pleasure of attending Liam's EI8HY wedding in Balally Church and celebrating afterwards at the reception in the Summerhill House Hotel, Enniskerry. We wish Liam and his new wife Grace many years of happiness together.

International Marconi Day

On Saturday 24 April, the Howth Martello Radio Group and the North Dublin Radio Club celebrated International Marconi Day by operating an IMD award station from the Martello Tower in Howth using the call-sign EI0MAR. The Martello tower houses the vintage radio museum. The museum web site is www.ei0mar.org.



Willie Barron EI6BUB Memorial Trophy
NDR chairman Tony EI6BQB presenting the Willie Barron EI6BUB memorial trophy to Liam EI8HY



NDR Club photograph at 2010 AGM:

Left to right: Nick EI7GOB, Frank SWL, Dermot EI4ESB, Tony EI5EM, John EI7JG, Eddie EI5IC, Liam EI8HY, Brendan EI4EPB, Tom EI6K, Jim EI4GZ, Tony EI4BQB



Dundalk Radio Club AGM 2010

Front Seated: Michael EI5GG; Jim 2I0SBI, Treasurer; Thos EI2JD, Chairman; Aidan EI7JC, Secretary; Peter EI4HX;
Middle Seated: Michael EI1581; Micky 2I0MMT; Seamus GI4SZW; Joe EI1539
Rear Standing: Kieran EI9JA; Andy MI6GNT; Mickey 2I0EIB; Anthony EI2KC, P.R.O.; Doug EI2CN; Oscar EI7IW; Pat EI2HX; Tom EI9CJ; Mark EI9FX; Kenny MI6KJW

Theory Examination

The next theory examination for the Amateur Radio Licence will be held on Wednesday, 7th July at 2pm in the ComReg Offices in Dublin and the Limerick Institute of Technology.

For information on examination fees and other details please see 'Theory Examination' in the 'Information' section of the IRTS website at www.irts.ie

Intending candidates are also referred to 'Studying for the Amateur Radio Examination' in the 'Downloads' section of the website.

The latest date for receipt of applications to sit the examination is Wednesday 23rd June next but it is important to note that places at the exam are allocated on a first come first served basis.

All enquiries about the examination to Sean Nolan EI7CD QTHR

Limerick Radio Club



Recently, members of Limerick Radio Club met up with James Dunbar K8JBD from Michigan, who was on holiday in Ireland.

Jim & his family were based in Adare Co. Limerick, and travelled around the mid west area. Lots of ideas were exchanged at the informal meeting and it is hoped that further relations between Limerick and Jim can be built up in the future.

Pictured: L to R: , Jim Dunbar K8JBD, Gerry Byrnes EI3JU, Simon Kenny EI7ALB, Ger McNamara EI4GXB, Breda Condon EI0DJ, Tony Condon EI2AW

The Chairman & committee of Limerick Radio Club would like to offer their congratulations to Ger McNamara EI4GXB on his appointment as Secretary of the IRTS and wish him well in his new role.

Region 4 IRTS

Candidates who have attended classes for the Theory Examination since early January have now finished formal lecture sessions, and are now doing some more practical work in the coming weeks before the examination on 7th July.

Recently they each constructed a 2 metre J-Pole antenna, approx cost was €5 for all materials and hopefully they will use it when they pass the exam and get their license.

Next they will be building the The GQRP "Limerick Sudden" 40m Receiver Kit.

Costing €50 per kit including membership of the GQRP club, it goes to show that amateur radio need not be an expensive hobby if you are willing to do some homebrewing.

We are delighted that the Theory Examination will take place at the Limerick Institute of Technology as a 2nd centre to the Comreg offices in Dublin. Anyone intending to sit the examination in Limerick is welcome to attend our last couple of classes.

Please contact Ger McNamara EI4GXB QTHR.

International Summits on the Air Weekend

Summits on the Air (SOTA) is a programme that encourages radio amateurs who enjoy hill walking to take their radios with them and operate from the mountain tops.

To promote interest in SOTA, an activity weekend for SOTA was held over the first weekend in May. Summits in more than 20 countries in Europe and North America were on air, with all bands from 80 metres to 70 cms in use by the activators.

Two Irish radio amateurs were out on the hills during the weekend - Ken GI4FLG was on 20 metres CW from Cairngaver in County Down, while Joe EI7GY was on 30 metres and 40 metres CW from Croaghanmoira in Wicklow.

The SOTA programme is not just for hill walkers, however, as it relies heavily on the interest in summit activations by those who prefer to stay in the shack.

For more about the SOTA programme, see www.qsl.net/sotaei



Peter EI7CC, Diego IZ0EWJ (Secretary Frosinone Section of ARI), YL Diana, Seán EI7CD during a recent visit to Dublin [Photo: Séamus EI8BP]

Outgoing QSL Bureau

Please mail your cards directly to the Outgoing Bureau Manager:

**Anthony Baldwin EI8JK,
Rathlin, Kilcrohane, Co. Cork.**

ei8jk@amsat.org

A historic overview of ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences and their impact on the Radio Amateur Service

On Tuesday May 4th, John Breen EI7BV gave a most interesting talk to South Dublin Radio Club. The talk titled "How Radio Amateur got their bands - the VHF, UHF, SHF & EHF bands" was a follow-on to one he had given last year which covered the bands below 30 MHz.

A large number of club members were in attendance together with guests from the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources and ComReg.

Prior to retiring in 2009 John was Assistant Director, Telecommunications and Radio Technology Division at the Department of Communications, Energy and Natural Resources.

He represented Ireland at various ITU meetings and conferences over the past 30 years. From 2001, as Head of the Irish Delegation, he coordinated this country's preparation for the ITU World Radiocommunication Conferences (WRC).

He was also involved in CEPT and EU committees and their work in developing Common European Proposals (ECPs) for presentation at those conferences.

John gave an insight into the organization of WRCs and how this had changed over the years. Then, starting with the 1947 WRC in Atlantic City, he traced the origins of amateur allocations above 30 MHz.

Over time and at subsequent conferences, as the higher frequencies were opened, radio amateurs obtained additional allocations right up to the current upper limit of 275GHz.

As radio amateurs when we gain access to spectrum there is a tendency for us to regard it as our spectrum and to assume that it will be available to us on an ongoing basis. This is not necessarily the case. The demand for spectrum is relentless and subsequent conferences can make changes to previously held allocations.

The lecture highlighted the effects of this type of change on our original 1947 allocations where over time there has been a trend to change the primary and exclusive bands allocated to amateurs to secondary and shared status.

It is noteworthy and exceptional, that, so far, the 144-146 MHz allocation has escaped modification. The lecture also demonstrated how long the process can take, particularly to get access to additional spectrum

Our hobby depends on spectrum access, any diminution of which could impact its future development and viability.



Jim Holohan EI4HH, President, South Dublin Radio Club congratulates John Breen EI7BV on his talk

In this context, John emphasised the work of IRTS and IARU over the years, which often goes un-noticed, in both obtaining and defending allocations for the amateur radio and amateur satellite services, nationally and internationally.

IARU has observer status and attends ITU meetings and WRCs.

IARU also participates in various regional groups such as CEPT where regional positions on WRC agenda items are developed. Without this type of work our access to spectrum would likely diminish.

Referring to the Spectrum Defence Funds set up by both ARRL and RSGB he explained that it was necessary to be vigilant not only at the international level but also nationally, as decisions made for other users could impact on the amateur service.

As an example of this he outlined how, in the case of the 2.3GHz band, changes made at international level at WRC back in the 1990s are now being looked at on a national level and, if implemented, could curtail our freedom to use parts of the band.

We normally think of spectrum in an amateur service context. This lecture showed how spectrum was won and lost in the wider context and provided a valuable insight into the issues surrounding our rights and privileges.

Hopefully there will be a future opportunity for the wider amateur community to hear it at first hand.

Last year, John made posters available showing the development of allocations up to 30 MHz for the IRTS stand at Friedrichshafen. They evoked a lot of interest. John has again made available posters covering frequencies above 30 MHz which will be on the stand in Friedrichshafen this year.

Brendan Trophy attempt this Summer

Fred, DM8MM, plans another activity from VO1 (grid GN37) in June/July 2010. He will be well equipped on 2m and looks for possible sked partners from Ireland.

He would be happy if someone could consider a portable operation from the EI west coast.

Please contact Fred via email if you are interested:

flichtenthaeler@gmx.de

Radio News Deadline

Noon on Thursdays

News Editor Charlie Carolan EI8JB

Input for the radio news should be sent via e-mail to:

charlie.carolan@ gmail.com.

or newsteam@irts.ie

or by phone to: 087-6265418

80m Counties Contest January 1st 2010

Results



My Name is Tony Allen, EI4DIB. This year I will be going QRP portable in Canada. I will be bringing a Yaesu FT-817, and Z-817 ATU, Antennas for HF, 6m, 2m and 70cms. Please take note of information below. Listen out for me using the Surrey Amateur Radio Club callsign VE7SAR/P in Surrey, British Columbia, Canada on June 26th and 27th 2010. The Surrey ARC are having a field day weekend on these days and will be QRV on all bands I have been invited by the Surrey ARC, VE7RSC (www.ve7sar.net) to participate in their field day, I will be on the microphone for 1 hour of the weekend and of course, if I can, I will be pointing all antennas towards "EI" and seeing who I can work..... I will be using the callsign VE7/EI4DIB from Vancouver, VE6/EI4DIB from Calgary also VE3/EI4DIB from Toronto. I will be QRV on the Surrey Repeater (VE7RSC-R) which is an Echolink Node (Number 496228). I will also be monitoring this Repeater/Echolink Node while I am in British Columbia. I will be connecting to and calling out VIA Echolink Node EI2MOG-L on 145.2125. Dates from June 23rd to July 8th 2010 . Thank you all and I look forward to hearing you all on the bands.

73, Tony EI4DIB.



Paul EI2CA IRTS President with Tom Bellew, Chairman Dundalk UDC at the 2010 IRTS Annual Dinner in Dundalk

1. SSB Fixed

		QSO's	Cntys	Points	QTH
1	EI4GYB Roland Byrne	148	28	9,772	CAR
2	EI2JD Thos Caffrey	112	30	9,480	LOU
3	EI7CD Sean Nolan	108	30	8,910	DUB
4	EI4GXB Ger McNamara	106	29	8,816	CLA
5	EI5GM Jeremy Sheehan	136	27	8,640	COR
6	EI3GSB Andrew Martin	114	27	8,100	TIP
7	GI8SKN David Reid	108	28	7,896	ANT
8	EI9FVB Declan Horan	104	28	7,868	KER
9	EI8IQ Pat Whitty	92	28	7,532	WEX
10	EI7CC Peter Ball	72	27	5,832	DUB
11	G3RXQ Stewart Baker	47	25	4,700	
12	EI9JO John Gill	71	21	4,515	KER
13	M0XDX Paul Dumbleton	43	25	4,100	
14	EI5FQB Clifford Beck	55	22	3,784	OFF
15	G4MKP Terry Burbridge	39	24	3,744	
16	GW4EVX Ron Price	38	23	3,496	
17	EI3GYB Michael Foertig	41	23	3,427	MAY
18	EI3ENB Paul Norris	37	21	3,108	KLK
19	GI0LEC Alan Gault	43	22	2,926	FER
20	MU0GSY Lionel Roithmeir	33	22	2,904	
21	EI2CL Michael McNamara	33	22	2,772	DUB
22	EI1DG Paddy McGrath	38	19	2,584	DUB
23	GI6RBD Kevin Brady	29	22	2,420	DOW
24	EI7IS Mark Wall	37	18	2,070	WAT
25	G8MIA Andy Malbon	24	19	1,824	
26	EI6IW John Edgeworth	24	16	1,344	LIM
27	M0YOM James Thresher	19	17	1,292	
28	MI5MTC Michael Clarke	20	15	1,050	FER
29	EI7GM Paul Kearney	20	11	715	DUB
30	M0AAA Thomas Cannon	12	11	528	
31	G0FPU Mike Densham	11	9	484	

2. SSB/CW Fixed

1	EI2CA Paul Martin	122	28	9,212	MEA
2	EI4CF Niall Foley	112	27	7,803	GAL
3	EI7GY Joe Ryan	74	27	6,372	DUB
4	EI8IU Brian Canning	76	23	5,060	LEI
5	G0MTN Lee Volante	41	23	3,772	
6	EI8JB Charlie Carolan	31	21	2,541	MEA
7	G4EBK G.J. Smith	31	18	2,232	
8	MU0FAL Colin Fallaize	17	16	1,088	
9	G4WGE Alun Cross	17	15	1,020	
10	G3SRD John Reynolds	15	12	720	
11	SE5E Ingemar Fogelberg	6	5	120	
12	G4FDC Alex Korda	3	3	36	
13	G3WRR Q.G. Collier	2	2	8	

3. SSB Portable

1	EI7MRE/P Mayo R. E. Network	89	27	7,587	MAY
	EI2GCB, EI9JA, EI5GHB				

4. SSB/CW Portable No Entry

5. SWL

1	EI1588 Shauna Baines	90	26	7,410	MAY
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Check Logs

EI1CS, EI4HX, G3HRH, G6MC, M6LCH, SP6TRX

EI's on EQSL (as at June 1st 2010)

Updates and enquiries to Thos EI2JD at thoscalfrey@hotmail.com

EI DXCC Listings

(as at June 2nd 2010)

DXCC Confirmed				52	EI9EW (+4)	13	EI2GLB (New)	Mixed	259	EI9FBB (+27)	17m		
215	EI7BA (+2)	50	EI6AK	7	EI4DIB (+3)	353	EI8H	229	EI4BZ	282	EI7BA (+30)		
174	EI3IO	49	EI2FSB			351	EI6S	218	EI6IZ	241	EI9FBB (+23)		
171	EI4CF (+1)	46	EI1429	Worked All Zones		347	EI7CC	208	EI2JD	164	EI6FR (New)		
163	EI2JD (+2)	46	EI7JZ (+17)	40	EI4CF	341	EI6FR	178	EI9JF	108	EI6IZ		
163	EI9FBB (+4)	45	EI6GGB (+9)	40	EI9FBB	340	EI2GS	160	EI8IU	107	EI3IO		
150	EJ9FBB	44	EI8JW (+11)	40	EJ9FBB	334	EI7BA (+18)	122	EI5GM (New)	103	EI2JD		
148	EI9HX	43	EI7IS	39	EI0CZ (New)	321	EI3IO	119	EI7GY				
147	EI6IZ	42	EI/DK2AT	39	EI7BA	306	EI2HY	109	EI2IH	15m			
144	EI0CZ	42	EI5IX	39	EI9HX	300	EI9FBB (+12)	109	EI4HM	254	EI7BA (+24)		
140	EI7CC	41	EI3EBB	38	EI2JD	269	EI2CR	107	EI/GM4ARJ	224	EI9FBB (+33)		
130	EI9JU	41	EI4IR	38	EI9JU (+4)	262	EI2GX	106	EI1DG	221	EI6FR (New)		
121	EI9FVB (+3)	39	EI4DIB (+12)	37	EI3IO	262	EI2JD	100	EI6AL	188	EI3IO		
117	EI6HB	39	EI6IF	37	EI8GS	255	EI5GM (+50)	RTTY/Digital				171	EI4BZ
116	EI7JN (+56)	38	EI7GSB (New)	35	EI9O (+4)	253	EI9O (+11)	127	EI7BA (New)	148	EI2JD		
115	EI3GYB	37	EI1NC (New)	4	EI1DG (New)	248	EI9JF	126	EI6FR (+2)	109	EI8GS		
115	EI8GS	34	EI1KARG	33	EI3GYB	240	EI4BZ	102	EI6HB	108	EI3GV		
110	EI6AL	34	EI3JB	33	EI7CC	234	EI6IZ	Satellite - No Entry				107	EI6IZ
109	EI1DG (+11)	34	EI7GM (+1)	32	EI4BZ	211	EI8IU					103	EI9FVB
105	EI9O (+15)	33	EI1571	32	EI4GNB	210	EI6IL	160m		12m			
104	EI4GXB	32	EI90GPO	32	EI6AL (+1)	200	EI9FVB	195	EI3IO	180	EI7BA (+22)		
104	EI8FH (+3)	30	EI7CHB	32	EI9FVB	152	EI6HB	188	EI7BA (+39)	158	EI9FBB (+37)		
102	EI6JK	28	EI4IN (+2)	31	EI5GM (+1)	140	EI4GXB	113	EI9FBB (New)				
102	EI8IU (+3)	27	EI3GDB	31	EI5IF	134	EI9HQ	103	EI6IZ	10m			
101	EI4BZ	26	EI7IW (+2)	31	EI6JK	133	EI7GY	80m		250	EI3IO		
101	EI9HQ (+1)	25	EI2FS	30	EI4GXB	129	EI5GUB	304	EI6S (+6)	197	EI7BA (+12)		
98	EI0W (+7)	24	EI5GB (New)	29	EI0W (+4)	128	EI8HA	230	EI7BA (+28)	156	EI4BZ		
98	EI7JK	23	EI3GAB (New)	28	EI4GMB	117	EI3HA (New)	205	EI9FBB (+25)	154	EI6FR (New)		
92	EI5IF	22	EI/G4DDL	25	EI2GLB (New)	103	EI6AL	126	EI3IO	144	EI7GL		
92	EI7DAR	22	EI8GNB	22	EI2KC (New)	100	EI4HQ (New)	124	EI2JD	139	EI9FBB (+16)		
92	EJ9HQ	20	EI0CPL	22	EI7JN	Phone				110	EI4BZ		
88	EI4GNB (+1)	20	EI2IV	15	EI8JB	348	EI6S	108	EI6FR (+8)	128	EI4GK		
86	EI9ES	18	EI4HX	10	EI1429	345	EI7CC	101	EI6IZ	104	EI8GS		
85	EI3HA (+3)			10	EI4DIB (+2)	338	EI2GS						
81	EI5GM	Worked All States		10	EI4IN	334	EI8EM	40m		6m			
80	EI2GLB (+14)	50	EI4CF			331	EI8AR	263	EI7BA (+29)	157	EI3IO		
79	EJ3HA (+8)	50	EI8GS	Worked Prefixes		318	EI6FR	214	EI9FBB (+5)	111	EI7GL		
77	EI5GUB (+4)	50	EI9FBB	1,255	EI4CF (+33)	301	EI7BA (+29)	167	EI3IO	101	EI3EBB		
77	EI7IX	50	EJ9FBB	1,076	EI2JD (+23)	300	EI8AU	152	EI2JD				
76	EI8JR	50	EI9HX	890	EI8GS (+21)	284	EI9FBB (+9)	149	EI6FR (+4)	2m	No entry		
73	EI2II	50	EI9JU (+1)	879	EI9FBB (+86)	277	EI3GV	138	EI6IZ	DXCC Challenge			
73	EI8DL (+8)	49	EI9HQ	866	EI7CC (+258)	264	EI4GK	129	EI4BZ	2,168	EI7BA (+264)		
73	EI8IQ (+25)	49	EI7JN (+2)	817	EI6JK (+335)	242	EI2JD	117	EI7GL	1852	EI9FBB (+243)		
72	EI4HQ	49	EI9O (+3)	817	EI7DAR (+65)	229	EI8GS	30m		1,699	EI3IO		
71	EI9CF (+3)	49	EJ9HQ	812	EI0W (+89)	213	EI7GL	250	EI7BA (+37)	1,521	EI7CC		
69	EI8GP	48	EI6HB	811	EI9HQ (+11)	200	EI6IL	215	EI3IO	1,384	EI6FR (+21)		
68	EI/DH0GSU/p	47	EI2JD	797	EI3IO (+42)	193	EI9JF	191	EI9FBB (+47)	1,144	EI2JD		
68	EI5GJB	47	EI3IO	797	EI9JU (+46)	186	EI7II	145	EI6FR (+1)	1001	EI6IZ		
67	EI4HH	45	EI4BZ	679	EI7BA (+93)	177	EI9FE	138	EI6IZ	DXCC Honor Roll			
66	EI7IM (+23)	45	EI4IS	654	EI4GXB (+140)	167	EI4BZ	110	EI4BZ	Mixed			
65	EI7M	45	EI5GM (+1)	590	EI4BZ (+12)	165	EI2CH	20m		338	EI6FR/341		
65	EI8DD	45	EI7BA	587	EI9FVB (+14)	152	EI8IU	297	EI7BA (+30)	335	EI2GS/340		
64	EI2KC (+20)	45	EI8GP	506	EI7JK (+36)	129	EI9HQ	287	EI6FR (New)	335	EI6S/351		
62	EI5GSB (+3)	43	EI0CZ (New)	465	EI4GNB (+26)	119	EI4HH	278	EI9FBB (+10)	335	EI7CC/347		
61	EI4IS	43	EI0W	457	EI5IF (+109)	114	EI4EX	243	EI3IO	332	EI7BA (New)		
61	EI7BFB (+1)	41	EI4GNB	433	EI5GM (+62)	108	EI6HB	193	EI2JD	Phone			
61	EI9JM	41	EI5IF (+3)	400	EI1DG (New)	105	EI1CS	170	EI4BZ	334	EI6S/348		
58	EI6IL	41	EI7DAR	390	EI9JM (+99)	105	EI9HX	154	EI6IZ	333	EI2GS/338		
58	EI9JF	40	EI4GXB	363	EI9O (+48)	101	EI3IP	150	EI9JF	333	EI7CC/345		
57	EI8JK	40	EI7CC (+5)	345	EI8GP (+46)					139	EI9FVB		
56	EI7BMB	40	EI9HW (+4)	332	EI8IU (+25)					111	EI8GS		
56	EI8JB (+2)	32	EI6JK	293	EI8JB (+102)					110	EI3GV		
55	EI5HE (New)	31	EI4GMB	237	EI2GLB (New)					105	EI9HQ		
55	EI6CPB	30	EI9ES	213	EI7JN								
54	EI7IQ	29	EI9FVB	201	EI2KC (New)								
53	EI6ARB	26	EI6AL	200	EI4GMB								
52	EI4GMB (+12)	26	EI9JM	75	EI1429								
52	EI8H (New)	15	EI8JB	58	EI7IW (+6)								

Members Advertisements

For Sale:

Icom IC775 DSP HF transceiver. 200w.
 Good condition..... €1,400 o.n.o.
 Two SMC/Yaesu UHF commercial mobile transceivers.
 1) 545L1 one channel with matching mains power supply--
 output 13.8V 4A. Some alignment data.
 2) 1045L2 two channel with matching mains supply output--
 13.8V 3.5A.
 Service manual..... €25.00 each
 Yaesu Desk Microphone - YM38 Dynamic.
 Dual impedance 600 or 50K ohms..... €25.00
 Yaesu NC-72U wall type battery charger.
 12V 500mA €10.00
 Sean Carvin -- EI2CR
 QTHR. Tel 01-8107383

For Sale:

IC706MK2G, DSP - CI-V level converter- voice synthesiser,
 DTMF Mic + standard Mic. Boxed, Brackets and Cables.
 Log AT-7000 ATU. Non-smoker.
 Only used on VHF. €800.00 the lot.
 Log periodic MLP-32. 100-1300MHz.
 Tx on 2m, 70cms and 23cm. €100.00
 Q-Tek Penetrator All Band Vertical €80.00
 Kenwood R-5000 Communications Receiver. 0 - 30MHz +
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 086 8805717

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 Jeremy EI5GM 083-3317710

For Sale:

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 works well €190 o.n.o.
 Eoin Fagan EI9O Mobile : +353 86 6009110
 E-mail: eoin.fagan@amphenol-tcs.com

For Sale:

Drake TR4C transceiver working, needs realignment .. €50.00
 Yaesu FT75 crystal controlled mobile rig. €50.00
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Amateur Radio in the European Parliament

Following the IRTS AGM the Society was represented by Séamus EI8BP and Seán EI7CD at an exhibition in the European Parliament organised by the IARU Region 1 EUROCOM working group on 26/27 April. With the title European Amateur Radio Benefits Society the exhibition focused on Emergency Communications and Education & Space, with the aim to raise awareness amongst European politicians. The exhibition was sponsored by German MEP Mrs Birgit Sippel and was opened by IARU Region 1 President Hans PB2T. The opening was attended by the Euro Commissioner responsible for International Cooperation, Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Response Dr Kristalina Georgieva together with many MEPs and their assistants.

Students from the European School in Brussels were given a talk on satellites by Gaston Bertels ON4WF, Chairman of the IARU Amateur Radio Space Exploration Working Group and were able to have a live QSO

with the International Space Station and meet with astronauts and cosmonauts who had been aboard the ISS.

Also in attendance was Czech Republic MEP Vladimir Remek who flew in a Soviet spacecraft in 1978.



Seán Nolan EI7CD, Hon. Vice-President & IARU Liaison IRTS
Dave Wilson M0OBW, President RSGB



Thilo Kootz DL9KCE, Chairman IARU EUROCOM Working Group: Hans Blondeel
Timmerman PB2T, President IARU Region 1:
MEP Birgit Sippel, Germany: Mitch Wolfson
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£195.00

Used: Yaesu FT-77: Boxed etc. 10-80m + WARC. FM/SSB/CW. 100w



£175.00

Used: FT8100 in pristine condition . VHF/UHF. 144-146 / 430-440 MHz Mode: FM 50/35w; 20/20w; 5/5w



£110.00

Used: FT-2800 with manual, power lead and mic. Tx: 144-146 MHz. Rx: 137-174 MHz. Power output 65/25/10/5w



£75.00

Used: GRE PSR-225 Base Scanner 25-1300 MHz (5/12.5/25/50 kHz steps) Mode: AM/FM/WFM



£1,400.00

Used Icom IC-775 DSP in near mint condition ,fully filtered with box, manual, mic and power lead.



£199.00

Used: IC-R3. Very clean - boxed with manual. HF/VHF/UHF receiver/scanner. Frequency range: 0.495-2450 MHz



£325.00

Used: IC-R7000. Manual and Power lead: HF/VHF/UHF receiver/scanner: 25-2000 MHz



£59.00

Used: IC-T3H in good condition with drop in charger and manual. : Tx: 144-146 MHz: Rx: 136-174 MHz Mode: FM RF Power output: Hi: 5.5w. Lo: 0.5w



£399.00

Used: IC-718 HF Transceiver. Manual, boxed, Power lead etc. Mint. Tx: 10-160m: Rx: 0.030-30 MHz

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Used: MFJ949E ATU. In the box. As New. 1.8 - 30MHz. 300w



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Used: Yaesu MD-100A8X. Boxed. As new. Cardioid dynamic mic element. Up-Down tuning (on compatible Yaesu transceivers)..



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Used: Ranger 811H with original box and 4 new valves fitted. Four vertically-mounted 811A or 572B valves produce up to 800w



£175.00

Used: Realistic 2035 Receiver/Scanner: 25-520/760-1300 MHz AM/FM/WFM



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Used: TS-870s Mint condition, double boxed with manuals etc. Tx: 10-160m Rx: 0.1-30 MHz:



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Used: TS-940S. Good clean example with auto ATU/built in PSU. With manual/mic/power lead.



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Used Kenwood TS850S. With manual power lead and microphone.



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Used: Uniden 780 XLT with PSU in good condition. receiver/scanner 25-512/806-956/1240-1300 MHz



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Used: UBC-785XLT with PSU and manual. Frequency range: 25-512/806-1300 MHz



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Used: VX7R with second battery and speaker mic. Wide band Tx/Rx. Boxed. Very clean. Colour is black



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